

**Rep. Steve Hambley (R-Brunswick) and Rep. Rick Perales (R-Beavercreek) fundraiser, The Buckeye Bourdon House, 36 E. Gay St., Columbus, 5 p.m., (Sponsor: \$1,000; Host: \$500; Chair: \$350 to Hambley for House Committee and Citizens for Perales)**

**Tom Bullock (D-Candidate 13th House District) fundraiser, Dempsey's Food & Spirits, 346 S. High Street, Columbus, 5 p.m., (\$50 Friend | \$100 Host | \$250 Patron to Tom Bullock for Ohio)**

**Sen. Sean O'Brien (D-Bazetta) and Rep. John Bocchieri (D-Alliance) fundraiser, Condado Tacos Downtown, 132 S. High St., Columbus, 5 p.m., (Contribution Levels: \$1,000, \$500, \$350)**

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## House Activity for Tuesday, April 10, 2018

### INTRODUCED AND REFERRED

**HR 391** ■ **WORKER VISAS** (Young, R.) To urge President Donald J. Trump, members of his administration, and the Congress of the United States to revise the requirements for the H-2A Temporary Agricultural Worker Visa Program established under the Immigration and Nationality Act to reduce the cost and regulatory impact on employers who utilize the Program.  
Federalism & Interstate Relations

**HCR 26** ■ **JERUSALEM** (Faber, K., Keller, C.) To recognize Jerusalem as the capital of the State of Israel.  
Federalism & Interstate Relations

**HCR 27** ■ **ASIAN CARP** (Smith, K., Rogers, J.) To express support for the United States Army Corps of Engineers in its efforts to stop the Asian carp from invading the Great Lakes and to support federal funding of those efforts.  
Energy & Natural Resources

**HCR 28** ■ **LEGISLATIVE STAFF** (Smith, K., Dever, J.) To urge the Speaker of the House of Representatives and the President of the Senate to increase the compensation of House and Senate staff.  
Government Accountability & Oversight

### INTRODUCED

**HB 592** ■ **COURT RECORDS** (Ramos, D.) To permit sealing of records pertaining to multiple criminal offenses that resulted from drug-seeking behavior if the offender has successfully completed a drug treatment program and to name the act the Ohio Second Chance Act. Am. 2953.31

**HB 593** ■ **DASHBOARD RECORDINGS** (Ramos, D.) To provide that portions of a peace officer's dashboard camera recordings that show an officer being killed or suffering grievous bodily harm in the line of duty are not public records and generally are confidential and may not be released. Am. 149.43 and to enact section 149.436

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**HB 594** ■ **LOCAL GOVERNMENT PAYMENTS** (Ramos, D.) To provide for payments to municipalities or school districts for their lost income tax revenue after a business lays off 50 or more employees within their jurisdiction. Am. 131.46

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**HB 595** ■ **ESTATE LAW** (Cupp, R., Rezabek, J.) Relative to procedures for a testator to file a declaratory judgment action to declare the validity of a will prior to death and the settlor of a trust to file such an action to declare its validity, exceptions to antilapse provisions in class gifts in wills and trusts, incorporation of a written trust into a will, trusts for a minor, arbitration of trust disputes, the creation of county and multicounty guardianship services boards, and coroner's disposition of person dying of suspicious or unusual death. Am. 313.14, 2101.24, 2107.01, 2107.05, 2107.07, 2107.08, 2107.09, 2107.10, 2107.11, 2107.12, 2107.16, 2107.18, 2107.20, 2107.22, 2107.33, 2107.52, 2107.71, 2137.01, 2721.03, 5802.03, 5806.04, and 5808.19, to enact sections 2111.182, 2111.52, 5802.05, 5817.01, 5817.02, 5817.03, 5817.04, 5817.05, 5817.06, 5817.07, 5817.08, 5817.09, 5817.10, 5817.11, 5817.12, 5817.13, and 5817.14, and to repeal sections 2107.081, 2107.082, 2107.083, 2107.084, and 2107.085

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**HB 596** ■ **ABSENTEE VOTING** (Ramos, D.) To specify the conditions under which a board of county commissioners may establish one or more branch offices of the board of elections for in-person absent voting. Am. 3501.10, 3503.16, 3509.02, 3509.03, 3509.05, 3511.02, and 3511.10

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#### **CALENDAR FOR COMING SESSION**

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**HB 131** ■ **PHYSICAL THERAPY** (Gavarone, T., Reineke, B.) To modify the laws governing the practice of physical therapy.  
Wednesday, April 11

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**HB 135** ■ **DAY DESIGNATION** (Patmon, B.) To designate June 12th as "Superman Day."  
Wednesday, April 11

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**HB 263** ■ **OUTDOOR DINING AREAS** (Lanese, L.) To generally allow an owner, keeper, or harbinger of a dog to take the dog in an outdoor dining area of a retail food establishment or food service operation.  
Wednesday, April 11

**HB 318** ■ **SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICERS** (Patterson, J., LaTourette, S.) To define the necessary qualifications and responsibilities of school resource officers.  
Earlier REPORTED-AMENDED (See separate story)  
Gongwer Coverage

**HB 360** ■ **BULLYING** (Greenspan, D.) To enact the "Ohio Anti-Bullying and Hazing Act" with regard to school discipline and bullying and hazing policies at public schools and public colleges.  
Wednesday, April 11

**HB 378** ■ **BROADBAND GRANTS** (Smith, R., Cera, J.) To create the Ohio Broadband Development Grant Program and to make an appropriation.  
Wednesday, April 11

**HB 489** ■ **FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS** (Dever, J.) To provide some regulatory and tax relief to state banks and credit unions, to provide for data analytics to be conducted on publicly available information regarding banks, credit unions, and consumer finance companies, to modify when a creditor can file a claim against an estate, to require registration of mortgage loan servicers, and to require a specified notice be given to a debtor for certain debt collection.  
Wednesday, April 11

**HB 508** ■ **OHIO CORPS** (Ryan, S., Reineke, B.) To establish the hb Pilot Project and to make an appropriation.  
Earlier REPORTED-SUBSTITUTE (See separate story)  
Gongwer Coverage

**HR 193** ■ **CONGRESSIONAL MEDAL** (Antonio, N., Strahorn, F.) A resolution urging Congress to award a Congressional Gold Medal to the late Senator John Glenn and Mrs. Annie Glenn.  
Wednesday, April 11

**HR 299** ■ **DRUG USE** (Young, R., Ginter, T.) To recognize the efforts and successes of the faith-based community in supporting and assisting individuals who are suffering from opioid and other drug abuse and addiction.  
Wednesday, April 11

## **REFERRED**

### **Aging & Long Term Care:**

**SB 158** ■ **ELDER FRAUD** (Wilson, S.) To develop best practices and educational opportunities to combat elder fraud and exploitation and to fine and require full restitution from offenders who are found guilty of certain fraud-related crimes against the elderly.

**HB 567** ■ **LONG TERM CARE INSURANCE** (Fedor, T.) To impose limitations on long-term care premium rate increases.

**HB 572** ■ **RETIREMENT CREDIT** (Scherer, G., Howse, S.) Regarding Public Employees Retirement System service credit for services as a nonteaching school employee of a county board of developmental disabilities.

### **Armed Services, Veterans Affairs & Homeland Security:**

**HB 579** ■ **DAY DESIGNATION** (Ramos, D.) To declare November 23rd as "Fleet Admiral Ernest Joseph King Day."

### **Community & Family Advancement:**

**HB 574** ■ **MEDICAID PAYMENTS** (Ingram, C.) To permit parents and guardians to be paid for providing personal care or similar services to their children or wards enrolled in a Medicaid waiver program under certain circumstances.

## **Criminal Justice:**

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**SB 244** ■ **PROSTITUTION** (Dolan, M., Manning, G.) To amend the penalties for promoting prostitution.

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**HB 561** ■ **SEX OFFENSES** (Boggs, K., Lanese, L.) To eliminate the spousal exceptions for the offenses of rape, sexual battery, unlawful sexual conduct with a minor, gross sexual imposition, sexual imposition, and importuning and to permit a person to testify against the person's spouse in a prosecution for any of those offenses.

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**HB 568** ■ **MOVING VIOLATIONS** (Butler, J.) To authorize a law enforcement officer to arrest a driver of a motor vehicle if the officer has probable cause to believe that the driver committed a moving violation and that the moving violation was a contributing factor in a motor vehicle accident that caused serious physical harm to or the death of another person, to authorize the officer to request a warrant to conduct a chemical test to determine whether the driver was under the influence of drugs or alcohol if there is probable cause to do so, to authorize the officer to order the administration of a chemical test under specified circumstances, to require the mandatory bindover (for trial as an adult rather than a juvenile) of a 16- or 17- year-old who is alleged to have committed aggravated vehicular homicide, and to designate this act as "Sophie's Law."

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## **Economic Development, Commerce & Labor:**

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**HB 566** ■ **CIGARETTE PRICES** (Scherer, G., Cera, J.) Regarding cigarette minimum pricing.

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**HB 583** ■ **OCCUPATIONAL LICENSING** (Henne, M.) To limit the occupational license and registration requirements and fees that a political subdivision may impose on state-regulated occupations, to establish a waiver exempting certain persons from paying occupational license or registration fees, and to revise the licensing restrictions applicable to individuals convicted of criminal offenses.

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## Education & Career Readiness:

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**SB 216** ■ **SCHOOL REGULATIONS** (Huffman, M.) To enact the "Ohio Public School Deregulation Act" regarding the administration of preschool and primary and secondary education programs.

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## Energy & Natural Resources:

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**HB 562** ■ **PARK DRILLING** (Leland, D.) To prohibit the drilling of a horizontal well in various state and local parks.

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**HB 578** ■ **INJECTION WELLS** (Holmes, G., O'Brien, M.) To establish new setback requirements applicable to new Class II injection wells and to require thirty-seven and one-half per cent of the out-of-district injection well fee to be paid directly to the municipal corporation or township in which the injection well is located.

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## Federalism & Interstate Relations:

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**HB 563** ■ **FIREARM SALES** (West, T.) To prohibit a federally licensed firearms dealer from transferring a firearm while a background check is pending unless 30 days have elapsed.

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**HB 564** ■ **FIREARM PURCHASES** (West, T.) To require a 72-hour waiting period between the purchase and delivery of firearms and to impose a fine for violating this requirement.

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**HB 580** ■ **GRANT APPLICATIONS** (Thompson, A.) To establish procedures that executive agencies must follow when applying for grants, to require the Governor to approve any major grant application, and to permit the Governor to disapprove any minor grant application.

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## Government Accountability & Oversight:

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**HB 576** ■ **MINIMUM WAGE** (Kelly, B.) To increase the state minimum wage.

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### **State & Local Government:**

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**HJR 14** ■ **INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENTS** (Smith, K., Lepore-Hagan, M.)  
Proposing to enact Section 2t of Article VIII of the Constitution of the State of Ohio to permit the issuance of general obligation bonds to fund sewer and water capital improvements.

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### **Transportation & Public Safety:**

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**HB 570** ■ **LICENSE PLATE** (Brown, R., Lipps, S.) To create the "Zero" license plate to benefit the nonprofit Zero, the End of Prostate Cancer.

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**HB 573** ■ **ROAD NAMING** (Hoops, J.) To designate the portion of U.S. Route 24 in Henry County as the "Henry County Veterans Highway."

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**HB 577** ■ **ROAD NAMING** (Landis, A.) To designate a portion of State Route 93 in Tuscarawas County as the "PFC Oscar F. Nicewander Memorial Highway" and a portion of State Route 520 in Holmes County as the "Cpl. Jerry Robert Spitler Memorial Highway."

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**HB 581** ■ **LICENSE PLATE** (Miller, A., Boggs, K.) To create the "West High School Alumni Association" license plate and the "Central High School Alumni Association" license plate.

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**HB 582** ■ **ROAD NAMING** (Green, D.) To designate the portion of U.S. Route 52 in Clermont County the "Clermont County Vietnam Veterans Memorial Highway" and the portion of U.S. Route 52 in Brown County the "Brown County Vietnam Veterans Memorial Highway."

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### **Ways & Means:**

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**HB 569** ■ **SERVICES TAX** (Lipps, S., Reineke, B.) To modify the standard for determining when the sales and use tax applies to business-related electronic services that are provided together with other services.

**HB 571** ■ **LODGING TAXES** (Greenspan, D.) To specify that, for the purposes of the sales and use tax and local lodging taxes, the "price" on the basis of which a hotel intermediary must collect and remit the tax is the total amount paid by the customer for the hotel lodging, as advertised by the hotel intermediary.

**HB 575** ■ **VOLUNTEER TAX CREDITS** (Keller, C., Rezabek, J.) To grant income tax credits to persons who serve as volunteer firefighters or emergency medical service technicians.

**HB 584** ■ **TAX DEDUCTION** (Cera, J., Rogers, J.) To extend an existing income tax deduction for unsubsidized medical insurance premiums to Medicare premiums.

## **HOUSE SPEAKER'S APPOINTMENTS**

Ohio Public Works Commission: Randy Riley

## **COMMITTEE HEARINGS**

### **Ways & Means**

**HB 232** ■ **TAX DEDUCTION** (Rogers, J., Rezabek, J.) To authorize, for six years, a personal income tax deduction for attorneys and pass-through entity law firms based on the number of hours the attorney performed pro bono legal work for indigent clients through a legal aid society and the expenses associated with that work. (**CONTINUED-AMENDED**; 2nd Hearing-Proponent-Possible amendments)

Rep. Emilia Sykes (D-Akron) won support for an amendment that clarifies the deduction process for attorneys and law firms.

Lake County Common Pleas Court Judge Colleen A. Falkowski submitted written testimony in support of the bill, noting ongoing efforts to increase access to the courts via the Legal Aid Society and promote the provision of pro bono legal services.

"Granting the income tax deduction for time spent volunteering through the Legal Aid Society would certainly be of benefit to self-employed attorneys throughout the state," she wrote.

"Also, the deduction may encourage Legal Aid participation for self-employed attorneys in rural communities where the caseloads are not as high.

**HB 513**

**HOMESTEAD EXEMPTION (Brenner, A., Ginter, T.)** To enhance the homestead exemption for surviving spouses of peace officers, firefighters, and emergency medical personnel killed in the line of duty. (CONTINUED; 2nd Hearing-Proponent-Possible amendments)

Franklin County Auditor Clarence Mingo spoke in support of the measure, saying he worked with the sponsors on the proposal and noting the recent deaths of first responders in Westerville, while unrelated to the impetus behind the bill, underscore its benefits to surviving spouses.

"House Bill 513 would be a tangible benefit to families that are impacted by such tragedy," he said. "Surviving spouses would receive a \$50,000 exemption on the market value of their real property for tax purposes."

Providing some examples, Mr. Mingo said a surviving spouse who resides in Columbus could see an annual property tax reduction of \$1,060 and a Westerville resident \$1,336.

"This is a true benefit that will be meaningful to those surviving spouses," he said.

Responding to a question from **Rep. Marlene Anielski** (R-Walton Hills), the witness said the \$50,000 exemption on property values would not be on top of the current \$25,000 base homestead exemption, rather it would merely double that tax break.

**Rep. Wes Retherford** (R-Hamilton) asked about tracking and administering the additional benefit. Auditor Mingo said in part due to the relatively few number of first responders who are killed in action, it would be easy to track and recertify the survivor property owners. He also told the lawmaker that the standard for determining qualification would hinge on law enforcement's "term of art" definition of "in the line of duty."

Chairman **Rep. Tim Schaffer** (R-Lancaster), noting a police officer in his district died recently although he incurred the causal injuries on duty 15 years ago, said the issue may have to be clarified in the bill. Mr. Mingo commented that he thought the officer's surviving spouse would qualify under the measure.

**Rep. Derek Merrin** (R-Maumee) asked by the County Auditors' Association of Ohio supports this exemption while determining others would unduly throw off long-held appraisal methods. The witness said the group understands that veterans and first responders are a "certain class of Ohioans" that should be afforded the property tax exemptions. "My fellow auditors get it," he said. "We're for this."

Mr. Mingo told **Rep. Teresa Fedor** (D-Toledo) that the bill is limited to a single, chief residence to mirror current homestead exemption law.

**HB 524**

**COLLEGE SAVINGS (Scherer, G., Patterson, J.)** To expand the income tax deduction allowed for contributions to Ohio's 529 college savings program to include contributions to 529 programs established by other states. (CONTINUED; 2nd Hearing-Proponent)

Attorney Tony Fiore, representing the Securities Industry & Financial Markets Association, spoke in support of the measure. He said it would "encourage Ohioans to choose the savings option that makes the most sense for them and their family -- as opposed to one specific plan that may not meet their needs. State tax treatment should not be the sole driver of investment choice."

"A system that provides beneficial state tax treatment for all 529 plans allows for more competition between programs in different states - competition which necessarily leads to better plans and options, lower fees, and potentially increased education savings for families from those lower fees," he said. "Finding ways to increase educational savings is of pressing importance now, since savings rates are low - the personal savings rate of Americans in February 2018 was 3.40% - and college costs are rising quickly."

Mr. Fiore said it cost an average of about \$51,000 per year to attend a four-year private college.

"Since people with a bachelor's degree earn about 66% more on average over the course of their lifetime than those with solely a high school diploma, and a well-educated workforce is a fundamental component of economic development and growth, it makes sense for the state to do everything it can to support family education savings," he said.

**HB 545** **SALES TAX REMITTANCE (Arndt, S.)** To authorize small retailers to remit sales taxes when the retailer receives payment from the purchaser if the payment is received after the purchased item is delivered or the service is provided. (**CONTINUED**; 1st Hearing-Sponsor)

Rep. Steve Arndt (R-Port Clinton) said his bill "would allow small businesses defined as a micro business and that have gross sales of less than one million dollars in a calendar year the option to file their sales tax with the Department of Taxation on a cash basis as opposed to the accrual method which is required under current law."

"Allowing small businesses to file their taxes based on the cash method would be beneficial for a few reasons," he said. "First and most importantly, many small businesses struggle with low operating capital especially when first starting out. It is estimated that anywhere from 29-33% of small businesses fail due to a lack of cash flow. Paying taxes based on the accrual method simply places an unnecessary financial burden on small businesses and impedes growth and job creation."

"Secondly, assessing taxes on the cash basis greatly reduces administrative burden. Small businesses are no longer obligated to assess taxes based on when a transaction has deemed to occur but rather on when payments are received," he added.

Rep. Arndt concluded by saying that he hopes "that implementing this legislation will help the mom and pop establishments that add and give so much to our communities."

#### **Agriculture & Rural Development**

**HB 501** **VETERINARY TITLES (LaTourette, S., Huffman, S.)** To change professional title of "registered veterinary technician" to "registered veterinary nurse." (**REPORTED-No testimony**; 4th Hearing-All testimony-Possible vote)

**Rep. Keith Faber** (R-Celina) cast the only vote against the report.

Noting his mother was a nurse, he said in an interview after the hearing that "nurse" refers to a person who cares for humans. Another title may be acceptable but calling a registered veterinary technician a nurse would change the meaning of the title within the nursing profession, he added.

#### **Finance**

**HB 318** **SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICERS** (Patterson, J., LaTourette, S.) To define the necessary qualifications and responsibilities of school resource officers. (**REPORTED-AMENDED** (See separate story); 2nd Hearing-All testimony-Possible amendments & vote)

**HB 508** **OHIO CORPS** (Ryan, S., Reineke, B.) To establish the Ohio Corps Pilot Project and to make an appropriation. (**REPORTED-SUBSTITUTE** (See separate story); 6th Hearing-All testimony-Possible substitute & vote)

#### **Public Utilities**

**HB 402** **TELEPHONE REGULATION** (Hill, B.) To revise state regulation of telephone companies. (**REPORTED-SUBSTITUTE** (See separate story); 6th Hearing-All testimony-Possible substitute & vote)

#### **Economic Development, Commerce & Labor**

**HB 171** **EMS SHIFTS** (Patmon, B.) To limit the hours worked in a work shift and to require work breaks for emergency medical service providers. (**CONTINUED-SUBSTITUTE**; 1st Hearing-Sponsor-Possible substitute)

Rep. Craig Riedel (R-Defiance) successfully offered a substitute version that adds the requirement of an additional driver who is CPR certified and anti-retaliatory language protecting fatigued drivers in the last hour of their shift.

Rep. Bill Patmon (D-Cleveland) said his bill provides for public safety and helps to protect paramedics and EMTs.

"Currently, there is no law in the state of Ohio that provides protections for private ambulance drivers in terms of the number of hours that they are required to work," Rep. Patmon said.

In addition, the bill requires an ambulance operated by a private company to employ and licensed EMT or paramedic and a driver who is at least CPR certified and can assist with patient movement, Rep. Patmon said. Having two individuals in the vehicle will allow them to monitor each other for signs of fatigue and will provide additional patient care.

Rep. Patmon told Rep. Ron Young (R-Leroy) that since 2013, there have been over 2,000 ambulance crashes in Ohio injuring some 400 people.

The bill will prohibit a paramedic for private ambulance companies from working a shift longer than 12 hours with less than a 10-hour rest period in between shifts and provides protections for individuals who are unable to safely complete a shift due to fatigue during the last hour, he told Rep. Thomas West (D-Canton).

Rep. Michele Lepore-Hagan (D-Youngstown) asked if capping the amount of hours that can be worked would require companies to hire more employees.

Rep. Patmon said it would but the requirement that an additional driver be at least CPR certified was a made in response to the concern over the cost of paying two EMTs for each emergency run.

**HB 236** **ELEVATOR LAW** (Patton, T., Cupp, R.) To enact the Model Elevator Law. (**CONTINUED-SUBSTITUTE**; 2nd Hearing-Proponent-Possible substitute)

The panel adopted a substitute version that members were told was developed with the input of the Ohio Homebuilders Association and the Department of Commerce Division of

Compliance. It impacts, among other things, definitions and maintains the current regulatory structure for inspections and inspector training. (Comparison Document)

Speaking on behalf of the Elevator Industry Work Preservation Fund, Andrew Herf said the bill will align elevator laws with other construction safety laws in Ohio and in 34 states.

Mr. Herf said life safety is a term to describe anything related to construction that would affect human life in a building. In other areas of construction, if a person is working in a life safety area they are licensed by the state, but not all tradespeople deal with life safety, he said.

All public elevators are life safety systems in Ohio, but the life safety standard does not apply to elevator constructors, Mr. Herf said.

The bill has been crafted by both business and labor groups, he told the committee.

"We will continue to work with the Homebuilders to address the issues they have brought up, but we continue to feel strongly that at the very least an initial inspection of a residential elevator and subsequent inspection upon the transfer of a deed are important safety measures that should remain in place," Mr. Herf said.

Mr. Herf told Rep. Lepore-Hagan that elevator equipment has changed dramatically in the last 75 years and continuing education is a key component of the bill.

He told Rep. Riedel that under current Ohio law, neither an elevator contractor nor an individual mechanic needs to be licensed.

Rep. Ron Hood (R-Ashville) asked if lesser means of regulation, such as certifications or registrations, would be appropriate. Mr. Herf said currently elevator mechanics are unregulated and are asking for licensure because it is the standard regulation across other trades.

Rep. Young asked if elevator accidents have occurred in Ohio. Mr. Herf said yes, but the data is not tracked, and incidents are generally settled privately, except for a few high-profile cases.

Mr. Herf told Rep. Young that non-union entities support the bill.

Norman Martin of Schindler Elevator Corporation said problems arise in his industry when other companies or in-house contractors hire employees who have insufficient training.

"Elevators are extremely complex pieces of equipment and its absolutely necessary for the safety of both workers and elevator passengers in Ohio that those working on them are trained properly and demonstrate a fundamental competency," Mr. Martin told the committee.

Mr. Martin said during his time as Chief Elevator Inspector for the state that a mechanic in Akron, who was not properly trained, was fatally injured when an elevator came down on him. "An accident like this might have been prevented had the mechanic undergone the proper education and training," he said.

Mr. Martin said he is not advocating for one specific training program. "It is incorrect to portray this bill as being exclusive by imposing a mandate that all industry personnel go through the union's training program," he said.

He also gave his support to the creation of an Elevator Board to enforce the functions of the bill.

Rep. Lepore-Hagan asked if the Chief Elevator Inspector is the first to ride a newly installed elevator. Mr. Martin said a member of the state's team of inspectors is the first to ride an elevator prior to operation.

Mr. Martin also told Rep. Lepore-Hagan that many parties could be liable for an accident including the building owner or architect.

He added that if the legislation passes he would expect elevator accidents to decrease, but it is difficult to find statistics because most accidents occur in company buildings and are settled privately.

**Rep. Michael Sheehy** (D-Oregon) said it seems the accidents do not make the papers but are still harmful to victims and their families.

Mr. Martin told Rep. Riedel that the certification programs take about four years and participants log over 1,000 hours of instruction.

In response to Rep. Riedel, Mr. Martin said he would not expect the licensure requirement to create a back log of work or cause a labor shortage.

Mr. Martin told Rep. Young that public records of elevator accidents are not a mandated public record required to be maintained after an investigation ends.

He added that inspectors are competently trained and funded and completely independent of the installer, which is the focus of this bill.

Rep. West asked if licensure would be needed to restore elevators in historical buildings. Mr. Martin replied that restoration is not included in the scope of the bill.

Kevin Sullivan, the national coordinator for EIWPF, said the public policy implications of ensuring safe elevators and other conveyances are far reaching.

A recent study conducted by the United States Bureau of Labor Statistics suggests that jurisdictions which require licensing of elevator mechanics have seen a 26% reduction in the number of accidents and injuries on average, he said. Some jurisdictions saw greater than a 45% reduction. (See **Study**)

It is dangerous to the worker and to the public for the state to not require elevator mechanics to be licensed, Mr. Sullivan said.

"The bill incorporates the key applicable industry standards and codes developed by experts in the field, including the American Society of Mechanical Engineers," he told the committee.

Mr. Sullivan told Rep. Young that the study cited was based on eight states that collect data on elevator accidents, which does not include Ohio.

Rep. Young said he is hesitant to subject people to over 1,000 hours of training to get a license with little data to use as evidence.

Phillip Isaac, vice president of Gable Elevator, said mandating mechanics to meet training requirements would move the industry in the right direction.

Mr. Isaac said the bill's requirement of an initial inspection for residential elevators and on a deed transfer is important.

"This bill would help make sure that our future pool of employees operate at the same high level that they do today," he told the committee.

Dylan Isenberg, director of government affairs at National Elevator Industry, Inc. said in written testimony that the bill is not exclusionary and both union and non-union programs are available.

"It is paramount that work done on elevators and related equipment is completed by mechanics who demonstrate a fundamental competency and annually update their knowledge to the most current rules and procedures," he wrote.

**HB 331** **ACCIDENT REPORTS (Ingram, C.)** To prohibit the use of information obtained from an accident report by any person for commercial solicitation purposes. (**CONTINUED-SUBSTITUTE**; 1st Hearing-Sponsor-Possible substitute)

Rep. Riedel motioned to accept the substitute bill changing the period during which those involved in accidents could indicate they do not wish to be solicited to a 30-day period where it had previously been open-ended.

**Rep. Catherine Ingram** (D-Cincinnati) said her bill will give individuals involved in vehicular accidents the ability to say if they do not want to be contacted by phone for commercial solicitation for the 30 days following the incident.

Currently, accident reports are made public and are used by companies working on behalf of lawyers and medical practitioners to solicit business, the sponsor said. Typically, such calls are made the day following an incident and can be a nuisance for individuals for weeks, she added.

Then for some unsuspecting individuals, solicitation calls trap them into services costing thousands of dollars, Rep. Ingram said.

The bill is not a mandate, she said. Accident reports can continue to be sought by interested entities and can be used to contact accident victims by postal mail if they wish.

"The legislation simply bars solicitors from contacting accident victims via phone calls for 30 days if they indicate that is what they want on the accident report," she said.

Rep. West asked if the intent of the bill is to protect victims of traumatic experiences. Rep. Ingram said the intent to protect is a factor.

Rep. Hood asked how the bill will function if implemented. The sponsor replied that an individual involved in an accident would have the opportunity to indicate their preference regarding solicitation on the incident report.

**HB 433** **VETERINARY EDUCATION (Kelly, B., Brinkman, T.)** To allow a licensed veterinarian to receive up to two continuing education credits per biennium for performing free spaying and neutering services. (**REPORTED**; 4th Hearing-All testimony-Possible vote)

Dawn Truesdale, co-owner of Linworth Animal Hospital, said in written testimony spaying and neutering animals is the most important way to maintain population control and minimize euthanasia of animals.

"I believe providing the option for clinical, pro-bono CEs will not only enhance the skills of veterinarians who choose this type of educational opportunity - it will provide more subsidized care and spread awareness of those in need," she wrote.

This bill benefits both the animal shelters in need of donated services and the veterinarians that will provide them, she added.

**HCR 24** **GOVERNMENT REGULATIONS (Riedel, C., Holmes, G.)** To urge Congress to propose the Regulation Freedom Amendment to the Constitution of the United States. **(CONTINUED; 2nd Hearing-Proponent)**

Bryan Williams, director of government affairs for the Associated Builders and Contractors of Ohio, said in written testimony the current process of objecting to administrative regulations often requires costly litigation.

Mechanisms like Ohio's Joint Committee on Agency Review, sunset laws and the Common Sense Initiative are mechanisms to offset the consequences of some administrative regulations, Mr. Williams wrote. "These helpful tools demonstrate previous Ohio General Assemblies' awareness of how Executive branch rule writing authority can run amuck of their legislative intent."

**Subscriber's Note:** Full testimonies are available on the committee [website](#) under April 10. **Criminal Justice**

**HB 296** **DRUG OFFENSES (Gavarone, T.)** To enhance penalties for certain drug offenses committed in the vicinity of a community addiction services provider. **(CONTINUED-SUBSTITUTE; 4th Hearing-Possible substitute)**

Prior to hearing testimony, the panel accepted a **substitute** version of the bill offered by Rep. Jeff Rezabek (R-Clayton) to remove most of the underlying offenses except trafficking and aggravated trafficking. Marijuana is also excluded, he said. **(Comp doc)**

Niki Clum, legislative liaison for the Office of the Ohio Public Defender, said in opponent testimony that the penalty enhancements "result in absurd outcomes that disproportionately disadvantage minority communities."

"In densely populated urban areas, an individual is more likely to be within 1,000 feet of community addiction service provider compared to someone in a rural area where the population and buildings are more spread out," she said. "Not to mention community addiction service providers are more likely to be located in urban areas. Since minority populations also tend to be located in urban areas, minorities disproportionately suffer the consequences of these types of enhancements."

**HB 355** **SEXTING (Hill, B., Rezabek, J.)** To generally prohibit sexting by a person under 21 years of age. **(CONTINUED (See separate story); 3rd Hearing-Opponent)**

**HB 498** **RESISTING ARREST (Schuring, K.)** To classify resisting arrest as an offense of violence and to increase the penalties for certain resisting arrest offenses. **(CONTINUED; 1st Hearing-Sponsor)**

**Rep. Kirk Schuring** (R-Canton) said the legislation came about after a discussion with a police officer in Massillon who said assaults on police officers and instances of resisting arrest are on the rise.

Under the proposal, resisting arrest would result in a first-degree misdemeanor and a fifth-degree felony if an officer is physically harmed.

"We need to show an increased amount of respect for the men and women in blue," he said.



**HB 553**

**THEFT IN OFFICE (Cupp, R.)** To expand the increased penalties for theft in office based on the amount of property or services stolen and to include as restitution certain audit costs of the entity that suffered the loss involved in the offense. **(CONTINUED; 1st Hearing-Sponsor)**

Rep. Robert Cup (R-Lima) said the measure is designed to bring penalties for theft in office in line with the penalties for theft.

Current law caps theft in office as a third-degree felony.

"This disparity in penalty levels is failing to hold public officials who steal from taxpayers to the highest degree of accountability and must be addressed," he said in sponsor testimony. Under the proposal, theft in office of more than \$750,000 would qualify as a first-degree felony offense.

**SB 20**

**FELONY SENTENCES (Hackett, B.)** To require an additional prison term of 3 to 8 years for an offender who is convicted of or pleads guilty to a felony offense of violence if the offender is convicted of or pleads guilty to a specification that the victim suffered permanent disabling harm. **(REPORTED-AMENDED; 3rd Hearing-All testimony-Possible amendments & vote)**

Before hearing testimony the panel accepted an **amendment** offered by Rep. Rezabek to ensure that multiple specifications for the same offense cannot be stacked on top of each other, he said.

Lou Tobin, executive director of the Ohio Prosecuting Attorneys Association, in proponent testimony called the penalty enhancement of six years in cases in which a felonious assault results in permanent disabling harm to a person under the age of 10 "an appropriate response to this injustice."

"It targets violent criminals who cause very serious injuries to their victims," he said.

However, Mr. Tobin did call on lawmakers to seek a similar bill that provides more broad protections.

"The 18-year-old domestic violence victim and the 75-year-old victim of elder abuse who suffer permanent disabling harm are, after all, no less deserving of this type of justice," he said.

Ms. Clum, however, took an opposing view of the bill. The bill was spurred by a case in which a shaken baby was impaired.

But Ms. Clum said the jury is still out on shaken baby syndrome.

"Some of the country's leading experts on shaken baby syndrome have changed their medical opinion regarding whether the syndrome is over diagnosed or even exists," she said.

**SB 66**

**CRIMINAL LAWS (Eklund, J., Tavares, C.)** To modify criminal sentencing and corrections law by including rehabilitation as a purpose of felony sentencing, removing the one-year minimum for presumptive fourth or fifth degree felony community control sanctions, modifying sanctions for a violation of a community control condition, modifying the manner of calculating confinement credits, modifying eligibility criteria and procedures for granting intervention in lieu of conviction, making offenders convicted of

certain multiple fourth or fifth degree felonies eligible for conviction record sealing, revising procedures for the Adult Parole Authority to grant a final release or terminate post-release control, and modifying the criteria for considering a prison term sanction for a post-release control violation. (CONTINUED (See separate story); 2nd Hearing-Proponent)

**Subscriber's Note:** Full testimonies are available on the [committee website](#) under April 10.

## **Federalism & Interstate Relations**

**HB 228** **GUN LAWS (Johnson, T., LaTourette, S.)** To assign to the prosecution the burden of disproving a self-defense or related claim, to expand the locations at which a person has no duty to retreat before using force under both civil and criminal law, and to modify the Concealed Handgun Licensing Law regarding a licensee's duty to keep the licensee's hands in plain sight, the penalties for illegally carrying a concealed firearm or improperly handling firearms in a motor vehicle, and the posting of warning signs regarding the possession of weapons on specified premises. (CONTINUED-SUBSTITUTE (No testimony) (See separate story); 4th Hearing-All testimony-Possible substitute & vote)

**HB 253** **CONCEALED WEAPONS (Householder, L., Lanese, L.)** To permit law enforcement officers to carry firearms off duty in places otherwise prohibited for concealed handgun licensees. (CONTINUED-SUBSTITUTE (No testimony); 4th Hearing-All testimony)

A **substitute** version of the bill offered by **Rep. John Becker** (R-Union Twp.) was accepted. Among the changes: it allows officers to carry a firearm in a liquor establishment if acting within the scope of their duties; prohibits an establishment serving the public from restricting peace officers from carrying a weapon on the premises; and allows law enforcement officials to carry in courthouses. (Comp doc)

**Subscriber's Note:** Full testimonies are available on the [committee website](#) under April 10.

## **Energy & Natural Resources**

**HB 518** **SPORTING LICENSURE (Dever, J., Cera, J.)** To make changes to the laws governing hunting and fishing. (CONTINUED (See separate story); 2nd Hearing-All testimony)

**HCR 22** **ENERGY RESOURCES (Hill, B.)** To express support for the importance of Ohio's energy resources and energy infrastructure in furthering Ohio's economic development. (REPORTED; 2nd Hearing-All testimony-Possible vote)

Brydon Ross, vice president of state affairs of the Consumer Energy Alliance, testified in support.

Mr. Ross said his group, which promotes an "all-of-the-above" energy policy, said the development of new infrastructure is essential to make sure Ohioans can use natural gas as part of their energy supply.

"We are in the early stages of a transformative moment in our nation's history that we at CEA call the shale energy revolution," he said. "This success was not pre-ordained. It took the courage of entrepreneurs, technological innovation by some of our brightest minds, and forwardthinking policies by legislators and regulators to let our country and Ohio's ingenuity thrive." He said, however, that new and improved pipelines are needed to bring the fuel to businesses, homes and marketplaces.

"Despite the misguided attempts by groups to shut down this critical infrastructure, its build-out is integral to Ohio's future success and to keep energy prices low for families, seniors, and small businesses," he said.

Zachary Frymier of the Ohio Chamber of Commerce, Guy Coviello of the Youngstown Warren Regional Chamber and Kevin Schmidt of the Ohio Cast Metals Association each submitted written testimony in support.

#### **State & Local Government**

**HB 484** **HEALTH DISTRICTS (Brenner, A.)** To authorize city and general health districts to use credit cards in accordance with prescribed requirements. (CONTINUED-SUBSTITUTE (No testimony); 4th Hearing-All testimony-Possible substitute)

The committee accepted a substitute bill from **Rep. Steve Hambley** (R-Brunswick) based on discussions between the sponsor, the County Auditors Association and the office of the state auditor.

The bulk of the changes effectively mirror portions of HB484 to another bill (**HB 312**) which passed the House in December and enacts limitations on the use of credit cards and debit cards by political subdivisions.

"The intent is to make the process uniform for all," Rep. Hambley said. "This will ensure general health districts are not carved out into a separate category and will be in compliance with future laws."

Secondly, the substitute bill enables a general health district to name itself.

**HB 500** **TOWNSHIP LAWS (Carfagna, R.)** To make various changes to township law. (CONTINUED-AMENDED; 4th Hearing-All testimony-Possible amendments)

**Rep. Rick Carfagna** (R-Westerville) put forth two amendments that were accepted by the committee. The first narrows the legislation to apply only to limited home rule townships - a move that applies the bill to only 32 townships rather than the prior 1,308 townships. The second change was requested by the Ohio Fire Chiefs Association and removes language that had required townships to designate legal counsel rather than a private citizen to investigate fire chief conduct and removal proceedings.

"We feel there is a broader issue that perhaps could be addressed through separate legislation," Rep. Carfagna said of the latter change. "We are willing to remove this provision from the bill altogether from the bill and hopefully resume discussions about it probably not this General Assembly but maybe in the coming year."

Adam Schwiebert, policy analyst for the County Commissioners Association of Ohio, expressed mixed opinions of the legislation. He praised the amendment narrowing the scope of the proposal to limited home rule townships.

"To further strengthen the provision, additional language should be considered to require an (American Institute of Certified Planners) certified planner to be on staff or under contract for those limited home rule townships that choose to not utilize their local zoning commission," he said. "AICP certification is the only nationwide, independent verification of planners' qualifications."

But he said his association opposes a provision relating to township road vacation and he urged counties be granted some of the same abilities the legislation currently grants to townships including: levying a countywide admissions tax and offering a single property tax for capital expenses for most public safety and infrastructure projects.

Representatives of the Milan Township, Vermillion Township and Liberty Township trustees submitted written proponent testimony.

**HB 530** **LODGING TAX (Hambley, S., Arndt, S.)** To authorize local elected officers that have levied a hotel lodging excise tax, or a designee of such officers to simultaneously hold the position of officer or member of the board of trustees of a convention and visitors' bureau without constituting incompatible offices. **(CONTINUED; 3rd Hearing-All testimony-Possible amendments)**

Larry Fletcher, president of Lake Erie Shores and Islands, said questions over whether a county commissioner may serve on a county visitor bureau board of trustees results in a "disconnect" and deprives those boards of needed experience. The law currently does not expressly state those two positions are compatible, he said.

He said a commissioner has served as a voting board member of the Ottawa County Visitors Bureau since 2007, and the arrangement was "extremely positive." He said he counts only a handful of times in which those members had to recuse themselves from a vote due to their dual roles.

"House Bill 530 as submitted provides a means for those who have benefitted from commissioner involvement on their boards to continue doing so and opens the door for other counties to follow suit," he said. "And it provides for counties that choose not to entertain this option to enact a more restrictive policy."

**Rep. John Becker** (R-Union Twp.) questioned whether there is a reason county visitor bureaus are not held to the same standard as public entities under public records and sunshine laws. Mr. Fletcher replied that in most cases those entities are operating as non-profits.

Would the witness be amenable to expanding those laws to cover those boards? Rep. Becker asked.

"We make our financial records and our minutes (public) and anybody is welcome to come to a meeting," Mr. Fletcher replied. "I would not necessarily oppose that."

**HB 539** **STATE DOG (Rezabek, J.)** To designate the Labrador Retriever as the official state dog. **(CONTINUED; 2nd Hearing-All testimony)**

Several elementary school students testified before the committee, asking support for the legislation to name the Labrador retriever the official state dog of Ohio.

"I thought that Ohio could use a state dog," fourth-grader Brynne Hartley said. "Dogs brighten up the lives of Ohioans, young and old. Virtually every Ohioan has been touched by a dog, unless of course they are allergic to dogs."

In addition to the half dozen student proponents, Albert and Mary Myers of Columbus voiced support. Mr. Myers, formerly of the U.S. Army, described his experience training military dogs, including labs.

The American Kennel Club and Ohio Valley Dog Owners Inc. also signaled their support in written testimony.

**HB 543** **COUNTY PROSECUTORS (Perales, R., Hambley, S.)** To allow a county prosecuting attorney to enter into a contract with a regional airport authority, port authority, or regional planning commission to be its legal adviser. (CONTINUED; 2nd Hearing-All testimony)

Several aviation entities and the Ohio Association of Regional Councils signaled support for the legislation they said would expand legal assistance options for regional planning commissions and regional airport and port authorities.

Stacey Heaton of the Ohio Aviation Association said in written testimony the proposal would restore the prior ability for those groups to contract a county prosecutor as a legal adviser. That practice ended following a 2015 opinion from the attorney general's office.

"HB543 creates parity between airports owned by airport and port authorities and airports owned by a county or city; municipal or county airports already have access to legal assistance from a city attorney or county prosecutor, respectively," Ms. Heaton wrote. Russ Kline, of the Dayton International Airport, and Josh Tattie, of the Allen County Regional Airport, seconded that opinion.

"HB543 creates parity between airports owned by airport and port authorities and airports owned by a county or city; municipal or county airports already have access to legal assistance from a city attorney or county prosecutor, respectively," Mr. Kline said. Brian Martin, president of the Ohio Association of Regional Councils, wrote to the committee that the council voted to support the legislation.

"It is our understanding that, although this practice was occurring over the years, the authority for county prosecutors to provide this advice and counsel was not specifically authorized in the Ohio Revised Code," Mr. Martin wrote. "HB 543 will correct this problem and each of these regional entities, if they so choose, may obtain legal services from county prosecutors under a contract approved by the local county commissioners."

**HB 552** **ANIMAL TREATMENT (LaTourette, S.)** To establish requirements governing the chemical capture of animals, prohibit the use of gas chambers when euthanizing an animal, and to make changes to the law governing euthanasia of an animal by lethal injection. (CONTINUED; 1st Hearing-Sponsor)

**Rep. Sarah LaTourette** (R-Chagrin Falls) said current law forbids the use of a tranquilizer gun by county dog wardens without the presence of a veterinarian. Instead, she said wardens must use a control pole or -- if the situation escalates -- shoot the dog.

"This not only puts our dog wardens at unnecessary risk, it is cruel to the animals they are attempting to handle," Rep. LaTourette said. "Safeguards are included in the legislation that require certified officers to obtain a classification from the State Board of Pharmacy prior to practicing chemical capture outside of the direct supervision of a veterinarian."

The legislation also prohibits animal shelters from using gas chambers to euthanize domestic animals. An exception would be made if the Veterinary Medical Licensing Board and the State Board of Pharmacy declare a shortage exists of approval lethal injection substances. Lastly, the sponsor said her plan would no longer require wardens to sell unclaimed canines to teaching or research institutions for \$3 upon request.

"By eliminating this mandate language from code, the county dog warden still may sell such dogs to research and teaching facilities, but will not be mandated to do so and the dog warden may set the fee at which they turn over these dogs," she said.

**HB 585**

**FIREARM LAWS (Henne, M.)** To expand the definition of dangerous ordnance to include armor piercing ammunition and expand the definition of an automatic firearm to include any device within the federal definition of machine gun; to create additional conditions under which an individual may not possess a firearm or dangerous ordnance and to eliminate the process by which an individual may apply for relief from a weapons disability; to generally prohibit a person from buying, purchasing, obtaining, or furnishing a firearm on behalf of a third party; to provide for the entry of protection orders into the federal NCIC database and LEADS; and to provide for the issuance by a court of an extreme risk protection order. **(CONTINUED (See separate story) (Earlier referred to State & Local Government); 1st Hearing- Pending referral)**

**Subscribers Note:** For full testimony see the [committee's website](#) under April 10.  
**Government Accountability & Oversight**

**HB 342**

**TAX LEVIES (Merrin, D.)** To permit local tax-related proposals to appear only on general and primary election ballots and not on an August special election ballot and to modify the information conveyed in election notices and ballot language for property tax levies. **(CONTINUED (No testimony); 5th Hearing-All testimony-Possible amendments & vote)**

Chairman Rep. Louis Blessing (R-Cincinnati) said he and the sponsor have had discussions with interested parties and will hold off on a vote or any amendments to the measure.

The committee did not hear testimony, but school board and local school administration groups previously submitted comments saying the measure would undermine their ability to pass levies.

**HB 441**

**TAX REFUNDS (Lanese, L., Dever, J.)** To allow the Department of Taxation to provide taxpayers who file electronic returns the option of receiving their

income tax refund in the form of a prepaid card. (CONTINUED (No testimony); 2nd Hearing-Proponent)

**HB 469** **TAX CREDIT (Schuring, K., Patton, T.)** To authorize a nonrefundable insurance company tax credit for contributions of capital to transformational mixed use development projects. (CONTINUED-SUBSTITUTE; 6th Hearing-All testimony-Possible substitute)

A substitute version accepted by the committee made several changes to the definition of a "transformational mixed-use development" in the measure, Rep. Blessing said.

The new definition means a development must have a transformational impact from a quarter mile to a mile around, include a building that is 15 stories or more and have a development cost exceeding \$50 million, he said. It also must generate more new taxes than it would receive through the tax credit.

Sponsor **Rep. Kirk Schuring** (R-Canton) said the change stems from discussions with the Ohio Municipal League and other groups to ensure the credit is available to more cities across the state.

"We're just trying to make sure that the scope is broad enough so that other downtowns across the state of Ohio can participate," he said.

**HB 479** **DRUG PRICE INFORMATION (Lipps, S., West, T.)** Regarding pharmacy benefit managers, pharmacists, and the disclosure to patients of drug price information. (CONTINUED (See separate story); 2nd Hearing-Proponent)

**HB 522** **LIQUOR PERMITTING (Lanese, L.)** To allow an outdoor refreshment area to include liquor permit holders. (REPORTED (No testimony); 3rd Hearing-All testimony-Possible vote)

**HB 531** **SPORTS GRANTS (Schuring, K., Greenspan, D.)** To remove limitations on the amount of sports events grants that may be awarded in a fiscal year or for a specific grant, and to fund the grant program by diverting state sales tax receipts to a custodial fund administered by the Director of Development Services. (CONTINUED (No testimony); 4th Hearing-All testimony)

**SB 139** **LEGAL MATERIALS (Skindell, M., Eklund, J.)** To adopt the Uniform Electronic Legal Material Act. (REPORTED; 2nd Hearing-All testimony-Possible vote)

The committee voted unanimously to report the measure.

LSC Director Mark Flanders said the commission currently contracts out the publishing of legal material, costing about \$40,000 per year. If the proposal passes, the entity would continue to contract out those services, but the additional requirements such as authentication requirements would likely increase the cost of the contract.

"Since we'll be asking the contractor to provide more services, I anticipate the new contract will cost more," he said. "We don't think it will be a great deal more, probably under \$100,000."

The Ohio State Bar Association expressed support for the proposal in written testimony.

"The world is going digital," Todd Book, director of policy and government affairs for the OSBA, wrote. "We see more of our own members opting to receive information electronically

instead of in print. Even the lawyer's sacred Greenbook is seeing a decline in the printed version and an increase in the electronic version."

"Just like the move from stone to papyrus, the move from print to electronic publications will not be stopped," he continued. "Given the inevitable, the procedures and guidelines outlined in Senate Bill 139 are needed."

**SB 79** **AGENCY REVIEWS (Jordan, K.)** To require standing committees of the General Assembly to establish a schedule for the periodic review of state departments that are currently in the Governor's cabinet, and to require that Auditor of State performance audits be scheduled to coincide with the periodic review. (CONTINUED; 1st Hearing-Sponsor)

Sponsor **Sen. Kris Jordan** (R-Ostrander) said in written testimony the proposal and its companion bill (**HB 51**) would allow the legislature to review 24 executive agencies every four years to ensure they remain confined to their intended scope and role.

It would allow lawmakers to consider if the public is being served in the most effective manner, if the agency's functions are unnecessarily redundant, and allow more questions on the necessity of occupational licensure if the agency is involved in that, he said.

The proposal aligns the biennial performance audits conducted by the state auditor with the legislative review process, he said.

"It should come as a surprise to nobody that government rules and policies, even those with good intentions at their root, will more often than not grow beyond their intended scope," he said. "A bloated government does not serve as a safeguard to the public but as a barrier to innovation, economic growth, and the liberties of Ohioans."

#### **Education & Career Readiness**

**HB 540** **TEACHER EVALUATIONS (Gavarone, T., Manning, N.)** With regard to teacher evaluations. (CONTINUED; 2nd Hearing-Proponent)

Melissa Cropper, president of the Ohio Federation of Teachers, said her organization favors the measure, which has companion legislation in the Senate (**SB 240**).

"Ohio teachers are currently working under an evaluation system that uses testing data in an inappropriate and ineffective way to evaluate teachers by counting test results as a percentage of a teacher's evaluation," she said.

Jonathan Juravich, an elementary school art teacher in the Olentangy Local School District, also spoke in favor of the measure.

"HB540 would make the OTES process more coherent," said Mr. Juravich, the Department of Education's 2018 Ohio Teacher of the year. "By using student growth measures as a source of evidence in the conversations between educator and evaluator, we are emphasizing the importance of our impact on our students."

Jeanne Cerniglia, a math teacher and member of the Educators Standards Board, said evaluations of teachers play a key role in student learning.

"The proposed recommendations change the mindset of the education system in the state," she said.

**Rep. Theresa Gavarone** (R-Bowling Green), one of the bill's chief cosponsors, asked Ms. Cerniglia about the importance of approving the measure before summer.



Ms. Cerniglia said legislators should feel a "sense of urgency regarding the measure. . .  
"We're all going to be good," she said. "We're OK, but that third-grader is not going to get  
that year back. So it's really important."

**HB 549** **SCHOOL YEAR (Arndt, S.)** To generally require public and chartered  
nonpublic schools to open for instruction after Labor Day. (CONTINUED; 1st  
Hearing-Sponsor)

**Rep. Steven Arndt** (R-Port Clinton) said the measure will give school-age children  
opportunities to pursue work experiences and address the state's "workforce shortage and  
skills gap."

"One way to address this problem is to connect kids with internships and summer jobs that  
will provide them with personal growth and cognitive skills" he said.

Mr. Arndt said the measure also would keep students out of school during some of the  
hottest days of the year.

"Adequate teaching and learning are severely inhibited in this environment," he said.

**Rep. Michael Henne** (R-Clayton) asked Mr. Arndt if there are potential economic-benefits for  
state businesses.

Mr. Arndt said his main focus is students, but said the measure could boost tourism-related  
businesses.

"That's not my primary focus," he said. "That's an added benefit."

Local school districts would be able to start classes before Labor Day, but the measure  
would require them to conduct a public hearing at least one month before approving an  
earlier start date.

"This would allow the public to share their concerns," Mr. Arndt said.


**Rep. Catherine Ingram** (D-Cincinnati) asked Mr. Arndt if the bill would lead to a conflict if a  
charter school chose to start early and the public district responsible for transporting students  
to that school did not.

"That issue is there whether this bill passes or not," Mr. Arndt said.

**HB 591** **SCHOOL REPORT CARDS (Duffey, M.)** To revise the state report card  
rating system for school districts and public schools. (CONTINUED (See  
separate story); Informal Hearing-Sponsor-Pending referral)

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**From:** Rep76  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 11, 2018 8:23 AM  
**To:** 'David Toth'  
**Subject:** RE: REALTOR Priority - SUPPORT HB 211

Dear David,

Thank you for contacting me to voice your support of House Bill 211. I look forward to favorable consideration of this legislation on the House Floor today.

If you'd like to read the bill and associated documents, please visit the following link:  
<https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA132-HB-211>

Please do not hesitate to reach out to me with any future state legislative questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Sarah LaTourette  
State Representative  
Ohio House District 76

-----Original Message-----

From: David Toth [mailto:davidtoth@kw.com]  
Sent: Tuesday, April 10, 2018 9:46 AM  
To: Rep76 <Rep76@ohiohouse.gov>  
Subject: REALTOR Priority - SUPPORT HB 211

Dear Representative LaTourette,

As a REALTOR, and member of the Ohio REALTORS, I am asking for your support to bring House Bill 211 - our top legislative priority for 2018 - to the floor for a vote. House Bill 211 has passed the House Economic Development Commerce and Labor Committee by a 12-2 margin. House Bill 211 proposes much-needed consumer protections in the home buying process.

Home inspectors remain the only unlicensed actor in the home buying process. Their inspection report often serves as the final say in what is undoubtedly the largest financial investment a consumer will make in their lifetime. House Bill 211 simply establishes basic, common-sense standards for education and licensing of inspectors. More importantly, it provides multiple avenues for existing inspectors to continue their business operations.

Your vote in support of this bill will ensure that when a consumer hires a home inspector, the inspection is being done by a qualified inspector with the knowledge and background to provide a quality inspection report. HB 211 is supported by both REALTORS and the Ohio Chapter of the American Society of Home Inspectors.

We ask for your SUPPORT of House Bill 211.

Sincerely,

David Toth  
13050 Kenyon Dr  
Chesterland, OH 44026  
davidtoth@kw.com

davidtoth

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**From:** davidtoth@kw.com  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 11, 2018 8:24 AM  
**To:** rep76@ohiohouse.gov  
**Subject:** REALTOR Priority - SUPPORT HB 211

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We ask for your SUPPORT of House Bill 211.

Sincerely,

David Toth  
13050 Kenyon Dr  
Chesterland, OH 44026  
davidtoth@kw.com

**From:** Rep76  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 11, 2018 9:24 AM  
**To:** 'Nancy Kramer'  
**Subject:** RE: REALTOR Priority - SUPPORT HB 211

Dear Nancy,

Thank you for contacting me to voice your support of House Bill 211. I look forward to favorable consideration of this legislation on the House Floor, which could take place as soon as this week.

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Please do not hesitate to reach out to me with any future state legislative questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Sarah LaTourette  
State Representative  
Ohio House District 76

-----Original Message-----

From: Nancy Kramer [<mailto:nancykramer@howardhanan.com>]  
Sent: Tuesday, April 10, 2018 3:02 PM  
To: Rep76 <[Rep76@ohiohouse.gov](mailto:Rep76@ohiohouse.gov)>  
Subject: REALTOR Priority - SUPPORT HB 211

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We ask for your SUPPORT of House Bill 211.

Sincerely,

Nancy Kramer  
7517 Creekview Trl  
Chagrin Falls, OH 44023  
nancykramer@howardhanan.com

**From:** Rep76  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 11, 2018 9:24 AM  
**To:** 'Erin Bruner'  
**Subject:** RE: REALTOR Priority - SUPPORT HB 211

Dear Erin,

Thank you for contacting me to voice your support of House Bill 211. I look forward to favorable consideration of this legislation on the House Floor, which could take place as soon as this week.

If you'd like to read the bill and associated documents, please visit the following link:  
<https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA132-HB-211>

Please do not hesitate to reach out to me with any future state legislative questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Sarah LaTourette  
State Representative  
Ohio House District 76

-----Original Message-----

From: Erin Bruner [mailto:[erinbruner@hgagents.com](mailto:erinbruner@hgagents.com)]  
Sent: Tuesday, April 10, 2018 8:38 PM  
To: Rep76 <[Rep76@ohiohouse.gov](mailto:Rep76@ohiohouse.gov)>  
Subject: REALTOR Priority - SUPPORT HB 211

Dear Representative LaTourette,

As a REALTOR, and member of the Ohio REALTORS, I am asking for your support to bring House Bill 211 - our top legislative priority for 2018 - to the floor for a vote. House Bill 211 has passed the House Economic Development Commerce and Labor Committee by a 12-2 margin. House Bill 211 proposes much-needed consumer protections in the home buying process.

Home inspectors remain the only unlicensed actor in the home buying process. Their inspection report often serves as the final say in what is undoubtedly the largest financial investment a consumer will make in their lifetime. House Bill 211 simply establishes basic, common-sense standards for education and licensing of inspectors. More importantly, it provides multiple avenues for existing inspectors to continue their business operations.

Your vote in support of this bill will ensure that when a consumer hires a home inspector, the inspection is being done by a qualified inspector with the knowledge and background to provide a quality inspection report. HB 211 is supported by both REALTORS and the Ohio Chapter of the American Society of Home Inspectors.

We ask for your SUPPORT of House Bill 211.

Sincerely,

Erin Bruner  
12278 Hillcrest Dr  
Chesterland, OH 44026  
erinbruner@hgagents.com



**From:** Rep76  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 11, 2018 9:25 AM  
**To:** 'Dottie Dupuy'  
**Subject:** RE: REALTOR Priority - SUPPORT HB 211

Dear Dottie,

Thank you for contacting me to voice your support of House Bill 211. I look forward to favorable consideration of this legislation on the House Floor, which could take place as soon as this week.

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<https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA132-HB-211>

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Sincerely,

Sarah LaTourette  
State Representative  
Ohio House District 76

-----Original Message-----

From: Dottie Dupuy [<mailto:dottiedupuy@howardhanna.com>]  
Sent: Tuesday, April 10, 2018 10:01 AM  
To: Rep76 <[Rep76@ohiohouse.gov](mailto:Rep76@ohiohouse.gov)>  
Subject: REALTOR Priority - SUPPORT HB 211

Dear Representative LaTourette,

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We ask for your SUPPORT of House Bill 211.

Sincerely,

Dottie Dupuy  
581 Emerald Ct  
Aurora, OH 44202  
dottiedupuy@howardhanna.com

erinbruner

---

**From:** erinbruner@hgagents.com  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 11, 2018 11:00 AM  
**To:** rep76@ohiohouse.gov  
**Subject:** REALTOR Priority - SUPPORT HB 211

Dear Representative LaTourette,

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We ask for your SUPPORT of House Bill 211.

Sincerely,

Erin Bruner  
12278 Hillcrest Dr  
Chesterland, OH 44026  
erinbruner@hgagents.com

dottiedupuy

---

**From:** dottiedupuy@howardhanna.com  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 11, 2018 11:00 AM  
**To:** rep76@ohiohouse.gov  
**Subject:** REALTOR Priority - SUPPORT HB 211

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We ask for your SUPPORT of House Bill 211.

Sincerely,

Dottie Dupuy  
581 Emerald Ct  
Aurora, OH 44202  
dottiedupuy@howardhanna.com

nancykramer

---

**From:** nancykramer@howardhanan.com  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 11, 2018 11:00 AM  
**To:** rep76@ohiohouse.gov  
**Subject:** REALTOR Priority - SUPPORT HB 211

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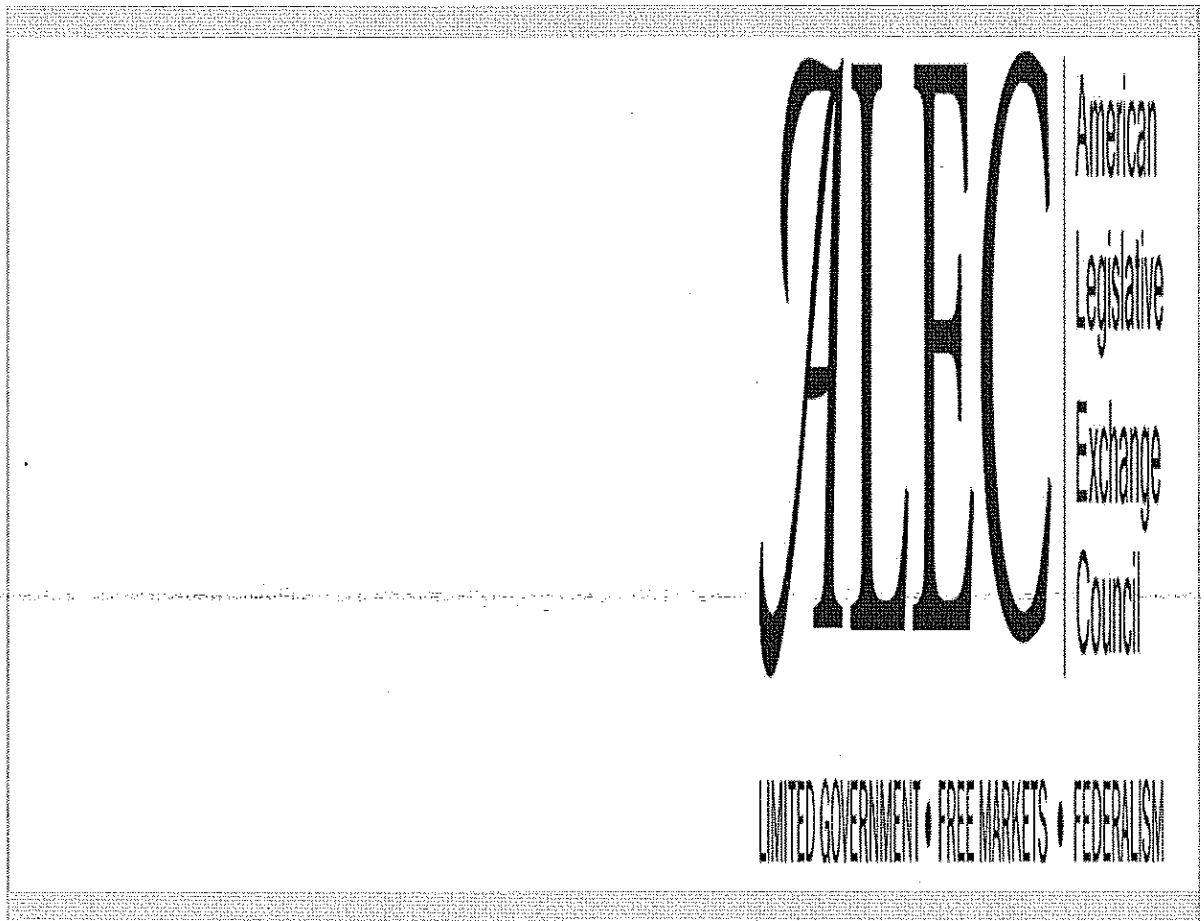
Your vote in support of this bill will ensure that when a consumer hires a home inspector, the inspection is being done by a qualified inspector with the knowledge and background to provide a quality inspection report. HB 211 is supported by both REALTORS and the Ohio Chapter of the American Society of Home Inspectors.

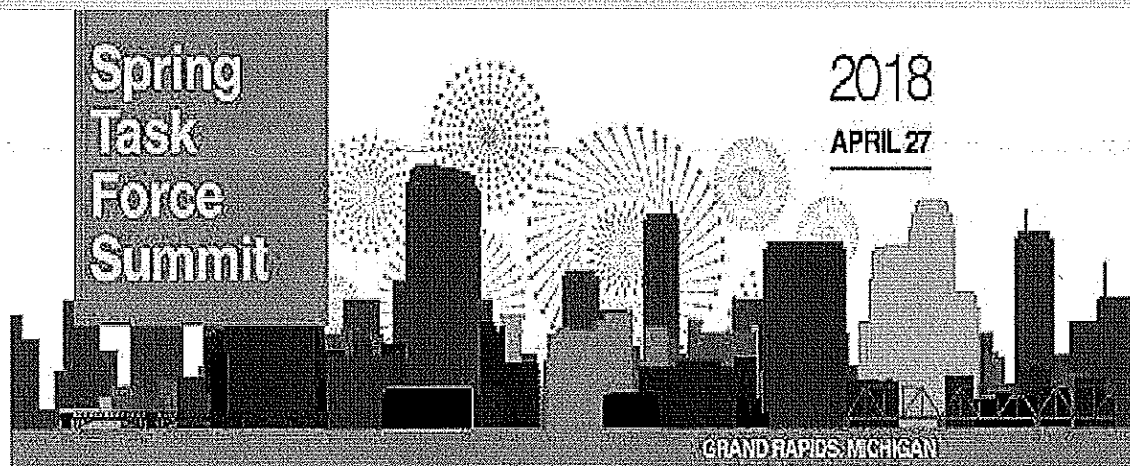
We ask for your SUPPORT of House Bill 211.

Sincerely,

Nancy Kramer  
7517 Creekview Trl  
Chagrin Falls, OH 44023  
nancykramer@howardhanan.com

**From:** Courtney Cook  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 12, 2018 2:08 PM  
**To:** Rep76  
**Subject:** ALEC: Limited Time Left to Save!





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**Save on your registration fee and join ALEC in  
Grand Rapids, MI!**

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**\*Please note, this offer is only good until Friday, April 13 at 11:59 PM so be sure to register now!**



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This message was sent to **rep76@ohiohouse.gov** from **CCook@alec.org**

Courtney Cook  
ALEC  
2900 Crystal Drive, 6th Floor  
Arlington, VA 22202

**iContact**  
TRY IT FOR FREE



**From:** Gongwer News Service  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 12, 2018 9:42 PM  
**To:** Rep76  
**Subject:** Ohio Report, Thursday, April 12, 2018  
**Attachments:** Apr12.htm; Apr13Schedule.htm; 180412dayplan.htm



## **OHIO REPORT THURSDAY, APRIL 12**

**Rosenberger Accelerates Resignation, Leaving Post Immediately**

**Sponsor, Advocates Continue Pressing For Wind Setback Change**

**Unions Call For Study Of Safety At Lucasville Prison**

**Judge Blasts OEPA, U.S. EPA For Handling Of Lake Erie Impairment Status**

**House District 84: Young Republicans Battle For Nomination**

**Cordray Campaign Touts Plan For Free Community College**

**Candidates Rolling Out TV Ads Ahead Of Next Month's Primary**

**Speaker's Resignation Makes Waves In Campaigns**

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**Agency Briefs: Naloxone Rebate Extended; BWC Awards Grants; OEPA**

**Governor's Appointments**

**Supplemental Agency Calendar**

**Supplemental Event Planner**

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**Legislative Committee Schedules**

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**Volume #87, Report #71 -- Thursday, April 12, 2018**

**Rosenberger Accelerates Resignation, Leaving Post Immediately**

Facing calls to leave office immediately rather than wait until May 1, Cliff Rosenberger officially resigned his seat and exited the General Assembly on Thursday.

The former House speaker, who appears to be a target in an inquiry by the FBI, initially said he would resign his 91<sup>st</sup> District seat effective May 1.

But many officials - Democrats and Republicans alike - said he should leave office immediately.

Rep. Kirk Schuring (R-Canton), who will oversee the House as Speaker Pro Tem, felt the immediate resignation was in the chamber's best interest, House GOP spokesman Brad Miller said.

"Rep. Schuring's top priority is to ensure a smooth transition and to finish off the first half of the session calendar with a focus on passing important, meaningful legislation to help the people of Ohio," he added. "That process began with Rep. Schuring presiding over yesterday's busy voting session."

"After now having time to fully assess the responsibilities of the office of Speaker, address the operational aspects of the Ohio House, and resolve questions regarding who has the appropriate decision-making authority, Rep. Schuring felt it was in the best interest of the institution that Cliff Rosenberger resign effective immediately," Mr. Miller added.

Mr. Rosenberger's earlier-than-expected resignation could also set the stage for the House Republican Caucus to select a successor to Mr. Rosenberger, perhaps as soon as next week.

Ohio Democratic Party Chairman David Pepper said Mr. Rosenberger should have left office right away. "It was obvious that this should've happened at the beginning of the week, when Rosenberger announced he was planning to hang on for a few more weeks, and it's incredible that it took this long - and that the Republican caucus considered pushing through legislation related to the very industry at the heart of the scandal.

Reports have indicated that discussions on legislation regarding the short-term loan industry could have played a part in Mr. Rosenberger's resignation. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, April 10, 2018)

**Sponsor, Advocates Continue Pressing For Wind Setback Change**

Wind energy advocates and their allies in the legislature are renewing calls for lawmakers to pass legislation that would rework the state's turbine setbacks.

Their urging comes as Senate Republicans continue discussions over a potential substitute bill that might add a wind setback revision to existing legislation that would water down the states' renewable and energy efficiency requirements (HB 114).

Sen. Matt Dolan and Rep. Bill Reineke appeared at a Statehouse press conference Wednesday to highlight the senator's legislation (SB 238) to walk back restrictions added at the last minute to an omnibus bill in 2014. Critics say that move crippled wind development in the state. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, May 20, 2014)

The press event showcased a new report from the Wind Energy Foundation and A Renewable America that contrasts counties with and without wind development. The report estimates existing wind projects will deliver \$54 million in payments to Ohio's rural communities by year's end through payments in lieu of taxes and land lease payments.

Representatives from Seneca and Sandusky counties, who say they're unable to move forward with wind projects under the current setback, voiced their envy of their counterparts in Paulding County who have existing wind farms. They described it as a tale of "haves" and the "have nots" and said those dollars can fund public services and school programming.

Sen. Dolan (R-Chagrin Falls) said the legislation would help not only wind-rich counties, but also other regions that could benefit from conducting maintenance, delivery, installation and other work on the turbines.

"In Ohio we enjoy 61 different companies throughout the state that are involved in the wind industry," Sen. Dolan said. "So this is in fact an Ohio bill. This is in fact improving Ohio's economy."

Rep. Reineke (R-Tiffin) said he looks forward to shepherding the legislation once it reaches the House.

"The people of Seneca and Sandusky counties - and potentially other Ohio counties in the future - stand to miss out on significant benefits unless we adopt a commonsense measure to fix our state's current property setback law for wind development," he said.

The Senate plan has received one hearing before the Senate Energy & Natural Resources Committee, although a nearly identical bill (SB 188) received several prior hearings last year before being scrapped following the abrupt resignation of chief sponsor and former Sen. Cliff Hite. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, December 7, 2017)

The Dolan bill, though, hasn't been heard since January as Sen. Troy Balderson (R-Zanesville) and Sen. Bill Beagle (R-Tipp City) - chairmen of the Senate energy and public utilities committees - continue efforts to hammer out a substitute version of the controversial HB114.

In addition to the standards language, that substitute bill is expected to roll in wind setback provisions in some form. The pair made their presentation to the caucus on the direction they'd like to take late last month but no consensus has been reached. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, March 23, 2018)

Sens. Balderson and Beagle said in interviews this week they had made no progress on the matter during the recent two-week legislative break but Senate President Larry Obhof on Wednesday predicted a sub bill would be ready "in the next few weeks."

Sen. Dolan said he expects that if wind setback language ends up in HB114 it will be substantively similar to his proposal. Meanwhile, he said he's confident the setback proposal will pass in some form, especially since the Senate already voted to support such language during the last budget (HB 64).

In that case, the House objected and the language was removed during conference committee with House leaders saying the budget wasn't the appropriate place to have the discussion. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, June 29, 2017)

"I'm confident we're going to move wind," Sen. Dolan said in an interview. "We already voted for it. Now it's a question of what vehicle is going to come back (to the House)."

Rep. Reineke said he's working on educating and assuaging potential concerns among his House colleagues. Some House Republicans have questioned whether loosening the setbacks might negatively impact property owners and have even floated the idea of increasing the setbacks. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, April 11, 2017)

"We're working very hard on that," Rep. Reineke said. "In my district we have wind as a resource and some districts don't so we're trying to sell that issue that we have that resource and we should be able to use that as we see fit in that district."

### **Unions Call For Study Of Safety At Lucasville Prison**

Two labor unions used the occasion of the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Lucasville prison riot this week to call for a task force on prison safety.

The Ohio Civil Service Employees Association and the Service Employees International Union/1199 urged the Department of Rehabilitation and Correction to create a joint task force to investigate decreased staff levels and new policies and procedures at the facility that they claim are putting staff in harm's way.

A spokeswoman for the state said issues would be discussed with the unions once an ongoing policy review is concluded.

In calling for a joint review, the unions also cited the attack on Matthew Mathias, a corrections officer who is still recovering from 32 stab wounds.

They said the mixing of inmates with different security levels was a factor in the incident.

"We need to change the way we treat inmates on the range and in escort situations," said Nick Brabsom, a corrections officer and union president at the facility. "Level 5 inmates need to be treated at the highest security level. And that means two officers per inmate. Period."

OCSEA President Chris Mabe said the prison "has the physical ability to separate higher security level inmates from others."

"And even if there is a mix of levels, the entire range should be treated as if all inmates are at the highest level," he added.

The unions also said growing mental health caseloads have become a problem at the facility.

Josh Norris, executive vice president of SEIU/1199, said the caseloads are not manageable.

"Not only are caseloads too high, the evaluations could be done on the range at the cellblock without having to move inmates," he said.

JoEllen Smith, spokeswoman for the Department of Rehabilitation and Correction, said in an email that the prison system will meet with its labor partners once it receives a final report from a national expert brought in to conduct a review of its policies.

"DRC remains committed to the operation of facilities that are safe and appropriately secure, especially our facilities that house extended restrictive housing offenders," she said.

"In the wake of this horrible attack on Officer Mathias, changes were implemented at the Southern Ohio Correctional Facility and DRC brought in a national expert to conduct an independent review of restrictive housing policies and procedures at all three of the facilities that house offenders in our most restrictive conditions of confinement. DRC will engage our labor partners once we receive the final report."

Wednesday marked the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the 11-day riot at the prison that left nine inmates and a corrections officer dead.

### **Judge Blasts OEPA, U.S. EPA For Handling Of Lake Erie Impairment Status**

A federal judge is accusing the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency of ignoring its duties under the Clean Water Act in recent years by declining to declare Lake Erie's waters impaired.

U.S. District Judge James Carr's order also gives the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency 30 days to reconsider its acceptance of the OEPA's 2016 report determining Lake Erie was not impaired under the federal law.

The ruling, issued late Wednesday in the U.S. District Court's Northern District of Ohio, is tied to an ongoing lawsuit filed by environmental advocates, the Environmental Law and Policy Center and Advocates for a Clean Lake Erie, against the U.S. EPA.

Although the OEPA isn't a defendant in the case, Judge Carr's order included plenty of scathing commentary on the agency's handling of the situation over recent years.

He accused the state agency of "playing a game of administrative pushball" and generally sided with environmental advocates who sued in 2017 alleging the state and federal governments failed to adequately assess the extent of phosphorus in the lake's western basin. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, July 20, 2017)

"Ohio EPA has routinely failed to assess Lake Erie's open waters - those 'beyond the shoreline and drinking water intake' areas and site of the recurring toxic algae bloom," the judge wrote.

"Ohio's persistent failures came to a head in 2016," he continued. "That year, in its report to the U.S. EPA, the Ohio EPA explicitly refused to 'assemble and evaluate all existing and readily available water quality-related data and information' concerning Lake Erie's open waters."

OEPA spokesman James Lee said the agency is still reviewing the court's decision. He also referred to the OEPA's 2018 draft report released in March in which the agency announced it will for the first time declare the lake's western basin impaired. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, March 22, 2018)

OEPA Director Craig Butler said at the time the agency "remains committed to our obligations under the Clean Water Act and to examine emerging science and practices that we can put in place to help improve it."

But Judge Carr agreed with environmental groups that the OEPA should have done more to assess the lake instead of "compounding inaction with inaction."

Regarding the federal EPA, the judge accused federal regulators of failing to hold the state accountable when it repeatedly failed to redo its 2012 and 2014 reports so they fully complied with the Clean Water Act.

"Doing so, the U.S. EPA also gave the Ohio EPA both the opportunity and a mandate to cure those deficiencies and otherwise fulfill its CWA obligations," Judge Carr wrote. "Yet in the years that followed, Ohio ignored that opportunity and its duties."

He also blasted the U.S. EPA for withdrawing its prior approval of the state's 2016 report during the course of litigation - a legal maneuver that the judge said prevents him from issuing a final ruling on the case due to a lack of a final appealable order.

"As the (U.S. EPA) well knew, by withdrawing its approval, there is no final agency action subject to judicial review under the APA, which prevents me from adjudicating the merits of the plaintiffs' motion for summary judgment," the judge wrote.

Instead, he remanded the issue to the U.S. EPA and gave the agency a 30 day deadline to approve or disapprove the state's 2016 impaired waters list.

Lastly, the judge faulted the U.S. EPA for failing to adequately notify the court or plaintiffs that it was withdrawing approval of the 2016 plan - a failure that "amplifies the whiff of bad faith arising from the timing of its inexplicably delayed notice to plaintiffs' counsel," he wrote.

Howard Learner, executive director of plaintiff ELPC, applauded the ruling.

"The court agreed with our legal position that U.S. EPA and Ohio EPA have improperly dragged their feet for years instead of stepping up to take prompt and necessary actions to protect Lake Erie from toxic algae blooms," Mr. Learner said. "The judge's decision requires the U.S. EPA and Ohio EPA to issue strong standards to prevent pollution from agricultural runoff in order to avoid toxic algae blooms and protects safe clean drinking water in Lake Erie for people in the Toledo area."

#### **House District 84: Young Republicans Battle For Nomination**

Three Republican candidates, including a relative of the current member, are vying to replace Rep. Keith Faber (R-Celina) in the conservative 84<sup>th</sup> District.

Aaron Heilers, project manager for the Blanchard River Demonstration Farms Network, Susan Manchester, community outreach director at Big Brothers Big Sisters of West Central Ohio, and Rep. Faber's nephew, Travis Faber, an attorney at Faber & Associates, each see themselves as the best fit for the district that encompasses Mercer County and parts of Auglaize, Shelby and Darke counties.

Mr. Heilers, 33, earned a bachelor's degree in agriculture from Ohio State University before working for eight years for the soil and water conservation districts in Miami and Auglaize counties. The married father of three also operates a grain farm and a wine grape vineyard.

Ms. Manchester, 30, graduated from OSU after studying political science and psychology before heading to Washington to work for U.S. Rep. Jim Jordan (R-Urbana). Prior to her time in D.C., she did an internship with Campus Crusade for Christ in Venezuela.

Mr. Faber, 29, received his J.D. from Ohio Northern University. He serves on the board of directors for the CA Group, Inc. and is an executive member of the Mercer County Bar Association.



Mr. Faber said he received encouragement to run for the seat from his uncle and private citizens.

"I wanted to help out my community and I thought this would be one of the best ways to do that," he said.

The lawyer, who is licensed to practice in both Ohio and Indiana, said his top issues are boosting the economy, protecting Second Amendment rights - he is a competitive shooter - and restricting abortions.

"When it comes to protecting life, we should be doing whatever we can to overturn *Roe v Wade*," he said.

Mr. Faber believes his message of less government will resonate in the district.

"I'm running for state representative because I know I can be one of those strong conservative voices," he said.

Ms. Manchester, who worked for the campaign of President Donald Trump, said she decided to run for the seat after working in Washington and seeing a disconnect between politicians and people.

"I wanted to come back and reinvest in the community that first invested in me," she said.

Calling herself a "pro-life, pro-Second Amendment, fiscal conservative," Ms. Manchester said she also wants to tackle the opioid epidemic and the economy.

"I'm looking to get the government out of your way so people can really do what they do best," she said.

Ms. Manchester said her time spent working for Mr. Jordan will prove to be an asset for the district.

"I know what it takes to be fiscally responsible and make sure we are being good stewards of taxpayer dollars," she said.

A member of the Shelby County Farm Bureau, Mr. Heilers said he got in the race to ensure that the agricultural community continues to have a voice in Columbus.

"I think it's crucial to have that representation," he said.

While agriculture is his top issue, Mr. Heilers said he will also be a voice against abortion, for economic freedom and for restoring funding to local governments.

"That is something that is very important over here for my district," he said.

Mr. Heilers believes that his involvement in the community will propel him to victory in the primary election.

"The life experience that I have over the other candidates sets me apart," he said.

The winner of the race will likely face Democrat Joe Monbeck in the general election.

**Subscribers Note:** This story is part of a series focusing on key primary races for Ohio legislative seats. See Gongwer's Election Page for more information on 2018 contests, including our Key Races.

### **Cordray Campaign Touts Plan For Free Community College**

The statewide group representing two-year higher education institutions is welcoming Democratic gubernatorial candidate Rich Cordray's proposal to provide Ohioans a free ride at community colleges.

Mr. Cordray said the state would reap rewards from providing easier access to higher education.

"Too many people in Ohio are being held back because they simply can't afford the training they need for in-demand jobs, and too many businesses are struggling to expand because they can't find qualified applicants to fill openings," he said in a campaign release. "Free community college means we can close that skills gap and create greater economic opportunity for all Ohioans."

Mr. Cordray's plan also calls for an increased number of advisors working in the state's community colleges to assist students in graduating sooner, as well as the expansion of Columbus State Community College's Preferred Pathways program throughout the state. The program assists students with admission to four-year colleges and provides academic and career counseling.

Jack Hershey, president and CEO of the Ohio Association of Community Colleges, said in a statement he appreciated Mr. Cordray's plan did not stop at providing tuition.

"While most college promise programs are simply designed to increase access, we believe that this approach will result in more graduations and greater success that will move all students forward, regardless of their age, background or socioeconomic status," he said.

Mr. Cordray's plan does not address the cost of covering tuition at community colleges for residents throughout the state.

Mr. Hershey acknowledged additional discussions are needed to determine how the state would fund such a plan.

## Candidates Rolling Out TV Ads Ahead Of Next Month's Primary

With less than a month until primary day, candidates are increasingly taking to the airwaves to get their messages out to voters.

Rich Cordray this week released his first television ad in his gubernatorial bid, which seeks to reintroduce the former state attorney general to Democratic primary voters.

"Watchdog" highlights Mr. Cordray's role as the first director of the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau and prominently features former President Barack Obama.

"Ohio's Richard Cordray, appointed by President Obama to lead the Consumer Bureau," the narrator says in the spot. "Rich took on payday lenders, big banks, and student loan schemes that profit at your expense, and he won. Now, he's running for governor because for Rich Cordray, fighting for people is what he does."

Cleveland-area businessman Mike Gibbons also launched a statewide television ad buy, his campaign announced Thursday.

In "Telling the Truth," the U.S. Senate candidate touts his lack of political experience and his opposition to earmarks and amnesty for illegal immigrants.

"I'm going to go to Washington to tell the truth, I want to represent Ohio, and I want to get some things done," he says in the 30-second spot.

Republican congressional hopeful Anthony Gonzalez is out with his second television ad, his campaign announced.

The 30-second spot, "Suit Up," briefly features clips of the former Ohio State wide receiver's playing days and a vow to work with President Donald Trump.

"Rise early, suit up," the narrator says. "Put in the work, for our families - our teammates. Anthony Gonzalez is Northeast Ohio."

Rep. Larry Householder (R-Glenford), a speaker hopeful, is also up with an ad in the Columbus media market.

The former speaker is featured shooting a television airing an anti-Householder ad in "Stick to Our Guns."

"I'm Larry Householder. I'm a pro-gun, pro-life Christian conservative, and I had the highest NRA rating in Ohio's history," he says in the spot. "The establishment doesn't like that. That's why a dark money group is airing deceitful ads against me. They're anti-Trump gun-grabbers and they use the kind of swamp politics that you and I aim to end. But they're in for a fight, because where I come from, we stick to our guns."

The ad running against Mr. Householder and for his primary opponent Kevin Black are backed by a super PAC registered in Virginia called the Honor and Principles PAC.

### **Speaker's Resignation Makes Waves In Campaigns**

The fallout from the resignation of former Speaker Cliff Rosenberger (R-Clarksville) continued Thursday.

Democratic gubernatorial candidate Rich Cordray took to Twitter to call out the Republican frontrunner in the race, Attorney General Mike DeWine, for having a conversation with Mr. Rosenberger after it was revealed that there is an FBI inquiry into his spending habits.

"This is a troubling situation with @MikeDeWine. He was worried about his political situation and hastily inserted himself in the middle of an FBI investigation," he Tweeted. "Now they will have to investigate his discussions with the disgraced Speaker. He must pledge to cooperate with FBI!"

Ryan Stubenrauch, a spokesman for the campaign of Mr. DeWine, ripped the comments in an email.

"Richard Cordray's blatant and bizarre tweets trying to turn Mike DeWine's leadership on this issue into a political attack are foolish," he said.

Later in the day Mr. Cordray compared the current political environment to that of 2006 when Democrats rode a wave of scandal to nearly sweeping all five statewide races.

"In 2006, the Coingate scandal rocked the Statehouse and helped elect Democrats to state office to clean up the corruption," he Tweeted. "This year's scandals - the ECOT scandal and now the pay-to-play-payday-lending scandal that has just broken wide open - will change the races this year."

Lt. Gov. Mary Taylor, who was the only statewide GOP candidate to survive the 2006 wave, issued a statement calling on Mr. DeWine to cooperate with any investigation.

"Mike DeWine needs to come clean on everything he knew about this mess and when exactly he knew it," she said. "Ohioans deserve to know if the state's ranking law enforcement officer improperly interfered in an ongoing investigation to protect his own political interests. The best way to do that is to give a full accounting to the FBI about the impetus and details of that phone call."

The congressional campaign of Sen. Troy Balderson (R-Zanesville) on Thursday called for Mr. Rosenberger to step down immediately just hours before he did so.

The speaker's former top aide, Mike Dittoe, is running Sen. Balderson's campaign. In a statement the candidate said he donated a campaign contribution from Mr.

Rosenberger's reelection campaign to a Christian homeless shelter in the congressional district.

"When the federal probe was made public and prior to the announcement of his resignation, my campaign made a swift decision to donate a \$1,000 contribution from the Committee to Elect Cliff Rosenberger to a Christian homeless shelter who will put the money to good use," he said.

In other cases, Democrats have tried to tie their opponents to the probe of Mr. Rosenberger, including Sharon Sweda, who is running against Rep. Nathan Manning (R-N.-Ridgeville) for a seat in the Senate, and Laura Friedman, who is aiming to block Rep. Kirk Schuring (R-Canton) from pulling off another seat swap.

### **DeWine Up By 10 In Poll; Brown, Balderson Tout Fundraising; Renacci Claims Momentum...**

A poll released Thursday by the gubernatorial campaign of Lt. Gov. Mary Taylor showed her trailing Republican frontrunner and Attorney General Mike DeWine by 10 points, 42-32%.

Conducted by the Remington Research Group, the poll also found Mr. DeWine to have a higher approval rating (42-33%) than Ms. Taylor (29-24%).

President Donald Trump was found to have an approval rating of 75-17% among likely Republican primary voters, 24% of whom described themselves as "Trump Republicans," second to only "Christian conservative" at 40%.

Ms. Taylor's campaign touted the poll, saying it amounts to a 22-point swing since the release of SurveyUSA poll conducted last month. The campaign attributed the gap closing to its recent attacks on the attorney general.

**Brown Fundraising:** The reelection campaign of U.S. Sen. Sherrod Brown announced it raised \$3.3 million in the first quarter of 2018.

The fundraising haul gives the Cleveland Democrat \$11.8 million on hand, nearly doubling his total at this time in the 2012 cycle.

"No one fights harder for Ohioans than Sherrod Brown and it's clear Ohioans are rallying around Sherrod in his reelection campaign," campaign manager Justin Barasky said in a release. "We are grateful for the support of grassroots donors across our state. With their help, we can take on the special interests and dark money groups who will spend millions to try to buy Ohio's U.S. Senate seat."

**Renacci:** On the other side of the race, the campaign of U.S. Rep. Jim Renacci (R-Alliance) is touting a POLITICO survey that found Mr. Brown holds a lead of just 1% over Mr. Renacci, 41-40%.

Brittany Martinez, the campaign's communications director, in a statement also pointed to findings in the survey that the approval rating of President Donald Trump stands at 58% in Ohio.

"Jim Renacci is proud to have the full support of the Trump White House and will continue to work with the president to fight for Ohio's interests in the United States Senate," she said.

**Balderson Fundraising:** The congressional campaign of Sen. Troy Balderson (R-Zanesville) announced that it has raised more than \$410,000 and placed more than \$225,000 in media buys through the May 8 election.

In a statement the candidate said he is humbled by the financial support he has received in his bid to replace former U.S. Rep. Pat Tiberi.

"There has been an overwhelming outpouring of support throughout each community in this district because we need a conservative in Congress who can get things done for this district," he said. "As a former farmer, small-business operator, and as a conservative state legislator, I am the best candidate to represent the people of the 12th Congressional District because I have the experience and the determination to get things done."

Sen. Balderson also announced that he received an "A" rating from the NRA Political Victory Fund.

**Russell Endorsement:** On the Democratic side of the race, the campaign of John Russell announced that it has received the endorsement of former Rep. Marian Harris, the founder of Ohioans for Gun Safety.

Ms. Harris in a statement called Mr. Russell "a grassroots leader, with a demonstrated history of fighting for workers and the middle class."

"It takes a smart campaign, a committed candidate and a message that speaks to the entire district," she said. "John's progressive, grassroots campaign has been working to win, not just in Franklin County, but the district as a whole."

**Ryan Retirement:** One of the Democrats vying to replace Rep. Renacci weighed in on the decision of U.S. House Speaker Paul Ryan (R-Wis.) not to seek reelection.

Grant Goodrich said the resignation announcement is "confirmation that Republican leaders see the writing on the wall."

"They know their days of extremism and misrule are coming to an end. While Speaker Ryan won't be in the Congress next year to see the consequences of his failed leadership, I am confident I will be," he said in a release.

**Democratic Debate:** The Ohio Environmental Council praised the final Democratic gubernatorial debate before the May 8 primary.

Hannah Tyler, deputy director of the Ohio Environmental Council Action Fund, said in a release that she was "excited to hear a discussion on the health of Ohio's waterways and a path forward on clean energy."

"With the clean air and drinking water of millions of Ohioans hanging in the balance, environmental protections are among the most critical issues facing our state," she said.

"A robust discussion of real problems and potential solutions is necessary to ensure the health of our environment for future generations. I hope to see a similar conversation at any Republican gubernatorial debates."

**Labor Backing:** The campaign of Michael Canty announced he has received the endorsements of several trade unions in his bid to replace Rep. Marlene Anielski (R-Walnut Hills).

The unions backing his candidacy are Cement Masons' Local Union No. 404, Sheet Metal Workers International Association Local Union No. 33, United Food & Commercial Workers Union Local 880, Ohio-Kentucky Administrative District Council of Bricklayers and Allied Craftworkers

"I believe these workers and their organizations will be significant allies in our push to broaden and intensify advanced workforce training in Northeast Ohio," he said in a statement.

**Women Candidates:** EMILY's List announced the endorsement of 11 Democratic women in legislative races, including Rep. Nickie Antonio (D-Lakewood) and Sen. Sandra Williams (D-Cleveland).

President Stephanie Schriock in a statement said "recent efforts of Ohio's Republican state legislature to pass the most radical anti-choice legislation in the country illustrates exactly why Ohio women and families need new and better leadership."

"These 11 pro-choice, Democratic women have stepped up to challenge these discriminatory policies and defend working families," she said. "They are the fighters that Ohio's women and working families deserve to protect access to quality, affordable health care and expand economic opportunity."

**CPAs Endorse:** The Ohio Society of CPAs also announced that it is backing 11 candidates in legislative races, including two Democrats.

OSCPA Vice President Barbara Benton said in a statement "it's important that we champion those candidates who support a healthy, simplified business climate."

"Having the right people at the table is especially important as we work to help drive economic development in our state, and push for positive changes to Ohio tax and other regulatory policies," she said.

**Strickland Endorsement:** Former Gov. Ted Strickland is backing Rick Neal in his bid to oust U.S. Rep. Steve Stivers (R-Columbus).

Mr. Strickland in a statement said Mr. Neal is committed to fighting for jobs and quality health care and coming up with a solution to combat the opioid crisis.

"His experience as a public health professional and humanitarian advocate for refugees represents the kind of passion and leadership Ohio families need in their elected officials," he said.

**Candidate Disavowed:** In an unusual move, the Ohio Democratic Party is telling voters not to cast a ballot for one of the three candidates vying to take on U.S. Rep. Brad Wenstrup (R-Cincinnati) in the general election.

ODP Chairman David Pepper in a statement urged primary voters to cast their ballots for Jill Schiller or Janet Everhard and to reject the candidacy of William Smith.

"Unfortunately, voting for William Smith in the Democratic primary would ensure Wenstrup escapes accountability from his constituents for yet another term. Smith has run in the Democratic primary for three consecutive cycles, and with his generic ballot name - and perhaps an assist from an unregistered super PAC that made robocalls supporting him in 2012 - he has managed to sneak through two times," Mr. Pepper said.

"In two general elections over the past six years, Smith has made no attempt to campaign, raise funds or talk with voters. Because he does not take the responsibility of being a candidate seriously, he deprives the voters of a real choice."

**Cordray Campaign:** Democratic gubernatorial candidate Rich Cordray is set to campaign on Friday with U.S. Sen. Elizabeth Warren (D-Mass.), the campaign announced.

At 10 a.m. the two will tour the Cincinnati Health Network and hold a roundtable discussion followed by a 2:30 p.m. event at Newport Music Hall on the campus of Ohio State University.

#### **Agency Briefs: Naloxone Rebate Extended; BWC Awards Grants; OEPA**

A state rebate agreement that has saved state and local agencies more than \$730,000 on the cost of naloxone has been extended another year, Attorney General Mike DeWine announced Thursday.



The agreement with Amphastar Pharmaceuticals, Inc., will let non-federal public entities in the state receive a \$6 rebate for each naloxone syringe purchased through March 2019.

The rebate saved 127 agencies a total of \$732,384 on naloxone purchases from March 2015 to December 2017, according to the AG's office.

"This rebate has had a major impact on the cost associated with using naloxone to save lives," Attorney General DeWine said in a statement. "Those battling addiction deserve the chance to recover, and by securing this rebate for Ohio, agencies have saved hundreds of thousands of dollars off of the normal price for this drug."

The AG's office said the rebate amount will increase if the company raises the wholesale price of naloxone during the terms of the agreement.

Eligible agencies include state agencies, law enforcement, fire departments, emergency medical services, county health departments, Project DAWN programs and other county or local government entities.

**Workers' Compensation:** The BWC announced two sets of grants this week, one totaling more than \$1.5 million for 73 employers in 40 counties, and another for nearly \$370,000 for 37 fire departments.

The first set of grants are designed to help employers buy equipment designed to reduce or eliminate workplace injuries and illness. The recipients will receive funding to match their investment three-to-one, up to \$40,000, per the BWC.

"Workers are employers' most important asset, and preventing accidents can keep them healthy and productive," Administrator/CEO Sarah Morrison said in a statement. "Employers investing in safety should consider applying for a safety grant and making use of the many BWC services that can help reduce claims and lower costs."

The grants for fire departments are intended to help the agencies buy safety gear, exhaust systems and specialized washing machines as part of an effort to reduce residue that can cause respiratory disease, cancer and other conditions.

The program was originally funded at \$2 million per year, but the BWC announced last month it would more than double the funding due to increased demand.

"The fire community's tremendous response to this program shows they understand the importance of equipping every firefighter with the appropriate protective gear," Administrator Morrison said. "BWC is pleased to be part of the effort to increase awareness while funding equipment that can limit serious health consequences down the road."

**Ohio EPA:** The agency set a public meeting for April 24 to discuss and receive comments on the preferred plan to address the former Kilgore Manufacturing property in Westerville.

The information session and public meeting will begin at 6 p.m. April 24 at the Austin E. Knowlton Center for Equine Science, 600 N. Spring Rd. in Westerville.

EPA representatives will present information and answer questions about the plan for the 40-acre site, which was used to manufacture explosives and incendiary materials between 1941 and 1962. The property is currently owned by Otterbein University.

The EPA's preferred plan includes excavation and off-site disposal of soil and contaminated sediment, along with an environmental covenant limiting the property to recreational and non-residential uses.

Comments can be submitted at the hearing, by email or by mail to Robin Roth, site coordinator, Ohio EPA Central District Office, P.O. Box 1049, Columbus, OH 43216 by May 8.

### **Governor's Appointments**

**Ohio Higher Educational Facility Commission:** John C. Adams, CFA of Upper Arlington for a term beginning April 12, 2018, and ending January 1, 2020.

**Petroleum Underground Storage Tank Release Compensation:** Stephen L. Hightower II of Middletown for a term beginning April 12, 2018, and ending July 10, 2020.

### **Supplemental Agency Calendar Wednesday, April 18**

Construction Industry Licensing Board, 6606 Tussing Road, OCILB Conference Room, Reynoldsburg, 10 a.m. (Administrative Section)

Credit Union Council, 77 South High Street, 21st Floor, Columbus, 10:30 a.m.

Public Utilities Commission of Ohio, 180 E. Broad St., 11th Fl., Columbus, 1:30 p.m.

### **Thursday, April 19**

School Employees Retirement System, 300 E. Broad St., Columbus, 8:30 a.m.

### **Supplemental Event Planner Tuesday, May 22**

Rep. David Leland (D-Columbus) fundraiser, Market 65, 65 East State Street, Columbus, 5:30 p.m., (Guest - \$250; Host - \$500; Sponsor - \$1,000; Gold Sponsor- \$2,500 to Friends of David Leland)

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Tom Gallick, Staff Writers

Click the  after a bill number to create a saved search and email alert for that bill.

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## **Legislative Committee Schedules beginning 4/13/2018**

### **Monday, April 16**

Joint Committee on Agency Rule Review (Committee Record) (Chr. Uecker, J., 644-6030), Senate Finance Hearing Rm., 1:30 p.m.

### **Tuesday, April 17**

Senate Insurance & Financial Institutions (Committee Record) (Chr. Hottinger, J., 466-5838), Finance Hearing Rm., 9:30 a.m.

- Confirmation hearing on governor's appointments of Fred DeBiasi, Jr, Banking Commission and Duana Patton and Catherine Cawthon, Ohio Housing Finance Agency

- SB 265** PHARMACY SERVICES (Dolan, M.) To permit certain health insurers to provide payment or reimbursement for services lawfully provided by a pharmacist and to recognize pharmacist services in certain other laws. (1st Hearing-Sponsor)
- SB 273** RATING AGENCIES (Hackett, B.) To enact for the Revised Code a definition of the term "rating agency." (1st Hearing-Sponsor)
- SB 227** HEALTH PLAN CLAIMS (Huffman, M.) To require health plan issuers to release certain claim information to group plan policyholders. (4th Hearing-All testimony-Possible amendments)
- SB 263** NOTARY PUBLIC (Huffman, M., Wilson, S.) To enact the Notary Public Modernization Act. (2nd Hearing-Proponent)
- SB 118** WORKERS COMPENSATION (LaRose, F., Brown, E.) To make peace officers, firefighters, and emergency medical workers diagnosed with post-traumatic stress disorder arising from employment without an accompanying physical injury eligible for compensation and benefits under Ohio's Workers' Compensation Law for up to one year and to prohibit such a person from receiving a disability benefit from a state retirement system for post-traumatic stress disorder arising from employment without an accompanying physical injury during the time period the person receives compensation and benefits under the Workers' Compensation Law for the disorder. (2nd Hearing-Proponent)

Senate Agriculture (Committee Record) (Chr. Hackett, B., 466-3780), South Hearing Rm., 4 p.m.

- Confirmation hearing on governor's appointments of Theresa Blocher, State Auctioneers Commission and James Tomaszewski, Jr., Jerry Lahmers, DVM and Jeffrey LeJeune, DVM, Ohio Livestock Care Standards Board

- HB 506** DOG BREEDERS (Hill, B.) To revise the law governing high volume dog breeders. (1st Hearing-Sponsor)
- HB 392** APIARY DAMAGES (Stein, D.) To grant specified apiary owners immunity in personal injury or property damage cases involving bee stings. (1st Hearing-Sponsor)
- SB 232** VETERINARY MEDICINE (Thomas, C.) To allow a licensed veterinarian to receive up to two continuing education credits per biennium for performing free spaying and neutering services. (3rd Hearing-All testimony)

**SR 382** **ALFALFA PRODUCTS (LaRose, F.)** To recognize the existence of two alfalfa products in light of the recent action of the Ingredient Definition Committee of the Association of American Feed Control Officials. (3rd Hearing-All testimony)

**HB 12** **OFFICIAL STATE STRUCTURE (Gonzales, A.)** To designate the barn as the official historical architectural structure of the state. (3rd Hearing-All testimony)

### **Wednesday, April 18**

Senate Ways & Means (Committee Record) (Chr. Eklund, J., 644-7718), South Hearing Rm., 9 a.m.

**HB 430** **ENERGY TAX EXEMPTION (Schaffer, T.)** To expand the scope of a sales and use tax exemption for certain kinds of property used in the production of oil and gas. (3rd Hearing-Opponent)

**HB 133** **DISASTER WORK (Ryan, S.)** To create the Disaster Relief Act to exempt out-of-state disaster businesses and qualifying out-of-state employees from certain taxes and laws with respect to disaster work on critical infrastructure performed in this state during a declared disaster. (3rd Hearing-All testimony)

**SB 252** **VISITORS BUREAUS (Peterson, B.)** To authorize local elected officers that have levied a hotel lodging excise tax, or a designee of such officers to simultaneously hold the position of officer or member of the board of trustees of a convention and visitors' bureau without constituting incompatible offices. (3rd Hearing-All testimony)

Senate Rules & Reference (Committee Record) (Chr. Obhof, L., 466-7505), Majority Conf. Rm., 11 a.m.

- If needed  
House Session (Committee Record) (Chr. Rosenberger, C., 466-3357), House Chamber, 1:30 p.m.
- If needed  
~~Canceled: Senate Session (Committee Record) (Chr. Obhof, L., 466-4900), Senate Chamber, 1:30 p.m.~~
- If needed

### **Thursday, April 19**

Joint Education Oversight Committee (Committee Record) (Chr. Manning, G., 466-8150), Senate South Hearing Rm., 8:45 a.m.

- Presentation on Value Added by John White and Jennifer Bell of the SAS EVAAS Group
- Update on progress of other research projects (tentative)
- Joint Medicaid Oversight Committee (Committee Record) (Chr. Huffman, S., 466-7584), North Hearing Rm., 9 a.m.
- Vote on Optumas FY 19 contract
- Update from State Medicaid Director Barbara Sears on behavioral health integration and the Medicaid budget
- House Session (Committee Record) (Chr. Rosenberger, C., 466-3357), House Chamber, 1 p.m.
- If needed

### **Wednesday, April 25**

Tax Expenditure Review Committee (Chr. Oelslager, S., 466-0626), Senate Finance Hearing Rm., 10 a.m.

Senate Rules & Reference (Committee Record) (Chr. Obhof, L., 466-7505), Majority Conf. Rm., 11 a.m.

Senate Session (Committee Record) (Chr. Obhof, L., 466-4900), Senate Chamber, 1:30 p.m.

**NOTE:** Click bill or resolution number links to see the legislative history compiled by Gongwer News Service. Click the [link](#) after a bill number to create a saved search and email alert for that bill. Click "Full Text" if present to view the text of legislation on the Legislature's Web site.

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## **Daily Activity Planner for Friday, April 13**

### **Legislative Committees**

No legislative committees scheduled.

### **Agency Calendar**

**Board of Building Standards, Training Rm. 1, 6606 Tussing Rd., Reynoldsburg, 10 a.m.**

**Ethics Commission, Rm. 2, 2nd Fl., 30 W. Spring St., Columbus, 11:30 a.m.**

### **Event Planner**

**Ohio Democratic Party Legacy Dinner, Hyatt Regency Columbus, 350 N. High St., Columbus, (Keynote speaker: Former Attorney General Eric Holder)**

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**From:** Ohio Chamber  
**Sent:** Monday, April 16, 2018 8:36 AM  
**To:** Rep76  
**Subject:** Ohio Chamber Legislative Update April 16



**OHIO CHAMBER  
OF COMMERCE**

## Legislative Update

April 16, 2018

***Read about the issues that impact your business.***

### **We're All For ....**

#### **Regulatory Reform**

Last week, the Ohio Senate took a big step in the right direction toward vital rule and regulatory reform. Senate Bill 221 passed out of the Ohio Senate with overwhelming, bipartisan support and is now headed to the Ohio House of Representatives for further consideration.

**Continue reading.**

**Click here** to read about the bills we are following.

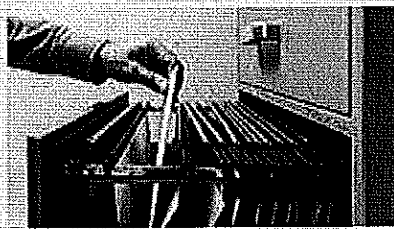


### **We're All for Providing Information**

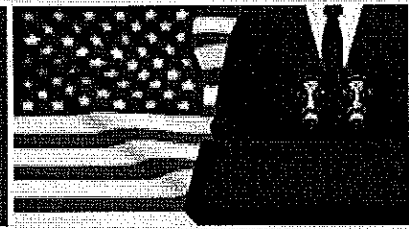
Be sure to read our latest blog posts on [allforohio.com](http://allforohio.com) for additional information that is of interest to Ohio Chamber members. Here are our blog posts from the past week:



**Ohio Chamber Testifies in  
Front of Tax Incentive Review  
Committee**



**The GDPR Covers  
Employee/HR Data & It's  
Tricky**



**Ohio Chamber PAC  
Announces 2018 Primary  
Endorsements**



The Tax Incentive Review Committee met last week to begin reviewing existing state tax exemptions [Read about the Ohio Chamber's testimony.](#)

The European Union (EU) General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) comes into effect on May 25, 2018, so in less than 60 days. [Learn more about this regulation.](#)

The Ohio Chamber of Commerce Political Action Committee is endorsing 19 candidates in the May Primary. [Read more about the endorsements.](#)

## We're All for Connections



## Contact Ohio Chamber Lobbyists

**Keith Lake, Vice President Government Affairs**  
[klake@ohiochamber.com](mailto:klake@ohiochamber.com)

**Don Boyd, Director Labor & Legal Affairs**  
[dboyd@ohiochamber.com](mailto:dboyd@ohiochamber.com)

**Zack Frymier, Director Energy & Environmental Policy**  
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**Jeff McClain, Director Tax & Economic Policy**  
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**Kevin Boehner, Director, Small Business & Workforce Policy**  
[kboehner@ohiochamber.com](mailto:kboehner@ohiochamber.com)

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**From:** LIO

**Sent:** Tuesday, April 17, 2018 9:46 AM

**To:** Rep76; 'SD18@ohiosenate.gov'

**Subject:** Message From LSC Legislative Information Office

## Message From the LSC Legislative Information Office

---

**To:** Rep. LaTourette and Sen. Eklund

**Callers Name:** Frank Mastrangelo

**Response**

**Call Please**

**No Return Call Necessary**      **x**

**Returned Your Call**

**Urgent**

**Home Phone:**

**Work Phone:**

**Extension:**

**Cell Phone:**

**Message:** Mr. Mastrangelo urges you not to support any right to work legislation and to support the prevailing wage. He is affiliated with Local Union 18.

**Address:** 8701 Mayfield Road, Chesterland, OH 44026

**E-mail:**

**Best Time To Call:**

**Additional Contact:**

**Additional Contact Phone Number:**

---

**LSC Legislative Information Office**

**Phone: 614-466-8842**

**[www.lsc.ohio.gov](http://www.lsc.ohio.gov)**

**From:** Laura Clemente  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 17, 2018 11:53 AM  
**To:** Rep30  
**Subject:** BARBERS SAY NO SUB HB 189

Please, NO to sub House Bill 189 -

Please, as an educator, service provider and business owner in the Barber Industry for over 35 years, my experience has shown that less education would be detrimental to health, safety, jobs and economy of so many people in the state of Ohio.

I also believe this bill has a self serving agenda. It's purpose is to line the pockets of big business while using cheap labor. It discourages education and is horrible for Ohio's economy.

- ▶ The board could never properly monitor an apprenticeship program. It would be impossible to legitimately oversee this type of program. It hasn't been thought out.  
It's hard enough to monitor attendance and sanitation while in school.

- ▶ The literacy and quality of applicants would be a downgrade due to the fact that there is no vetting of the persons that want to enter into this field

- ▶ This bill will put 4-5,000 Tax paying people out of work

- ▶ 100's of schools will be out of business.

- ▶ 100's of storefronts would be open

▶ The average mom and pop salon would not be able to financially support this type of apprenticeship program, leaving them out or out of business trying.

▶ This would downgrade our industry to place inexperienced next to the masters of our industry, creating animosity

▶ Will the government be forgiving the student debt that have incurred in this industry until now? This will open many doors and lawsuits.

▶ There is not enough time to learn proper techniques and sanitation's

▶ Pubic Safety is at risk- MRSA & VRE is a serious risk without proper education

▶ Without properly licensed cosmetologist the state of Ohio's revenue will go down.

▶ Cosmetologist are trained in human trafficking and drug trafficking now that is one less barrier to protect those who need

protected

▶ Licensure holds people accountable.

▶ It opens up lawsuits for the inexperienced.

▶ Let's Encourage Education Not Discourage!

▶ The Big chain stores would benefit. ie...Great Clips, Charles Penzone Salons... staffing all their 62 plus shops with inexperienced students at minimum wage to make a bigger profit.

SHAME, SHAME...PLEASE READ AND PLEASE HELP.

!<https://www.3rdrailpolitics.com/article/1013>

Be Purposeful...Gratefully, Laura

**From:** Laura Clemente  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 17, 2018 12:01 PM  
**To:** Rep01  
**Subject:** Please Barbers day No to Sub HB 189

Please, NO to sub House Bill 189 -

Please, as an educator, service provider and business owner in the Barber Industry for over 35 years, my experience has shown that less education would be detrimental to health, safety, jobs and economy of so many people in the state of Ohio.

I also believe this bill has a self serving agenda. It's purpose is to line the pockets of big business while using cheap labor. It discourages education and is horrible for Ohio's economy.

- ▶ The board could never properly monitor an apprenticeship program. It would be impossible to legitimately oversee this type of program. It hasn't been thought out. It's hard enough to monitor attendance and sanitation while in school.

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SHAME, SHAME...PLEASE READ AND PLEASE HELP.

!<https://www.3rdrailpolitics.com/article/1013>

Be Purposeful...Gratefully, Laura

**From:** Greater Ohio Policy Center  
**Sent:** Friday, April 20, 2018 8:24 AM  
**To:** Price, Ciara  
**Subject:** On Our Radar: News Clips from Greater Ohio Policy Center

On Our Radar: *News Clips from Greater Ohio Policy Center* [View this email in your browser](#)



At Greater Ohio Policy Center, we monitor the news daily to learn more about the sustainable growth initiatives and related developments in our state and beyond that affect Ohio. Below are articles that caught our attention over the last few weeks, and we thought they might interest you as well. If you have an article you would like to share with us, please email it to John Collier at [jcollier@greaterohio.org](mailto:jcollier@greaterohio.org).

Thank you,  
The Greater Ohio Policy Center Staff

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## **GOPC in the News**

### **Economic Club speaker addresses revitalization in cities like Mansfield**

MANSFIELD – Allison Goebel of the Greater Ohio Policy Center has seen small legacy cities transform themselves, and she believes the same is possible for Mansfield.

Richland Source 4/11/2018

## **Cities**

### **The Making of the District Detroit**

The plan, called the District Detroit, included a new glitzy, state-of-the-art, 20,000-seat hockey arena, along with a massive commercial, residential, and entertainment component spanning a 50-block, 385-acre (156 ha) area.

**Urban Land Magazine 4/9/2018 – Reporter Allan Lengel**

### **Think Big, Work Small**

Jason Segedy is a Strong Towns member and the Director of Planning and Urban Development for the City of Akron, Ohio. The follow essay is a shortened version of a post from his blog, Notes from the Underground. Follow all our coverage of Akron here.

**Strong Towns 4/17/2018**

## **Economy**

### **Dayton region sees strong manufacturing job growth**

Manufacturing firms in the Dayton region employed 43,100 people in February, which was the highest employment level in about 10 years, according to preliminary federal labor data.

**Dayton Daily News - 4/16/2018 Reporter Cornelius Frolik and Thomas Gnau**

## **Financial Institutions**

### **Payday lending bill advances out of Ohio legislative committee**

COLUMBUS, Ohio - A House committee advanced a bill Wednesday morning that would cap fees and interest rates on payday loan businesses - after more than a year of the bill stalling and less than a week after the chamber's speaker, Cliff Rosenberger, resigned amid a reported FBI inquiry into his ties with the industry.

**Cleveland Plain Dealer - 4/19/2018 Reporter Laura Hancock**

## **Housing & Urban Revitalization**

### **EXCLUSIVE: Historic downtown Cincinnati building planned to be converted to apartments**

A historic building in downtown Cincinnati is expected to be converted to apartments.

**Cincinnati Business Courier - 4/19/2018 Reporter Tom Demeropolis**

### **City, nonprofits to coordinate St. Louis blight fight, target thousands of abandoned buildings**

April 18 -- ST. LOUIS -- With an estimated 7,100 abandoned structures today, vacancy is a bigger problem than the city can handle on its own.

**St. Louis Post-Dispatch – 4/18/2018**

### **Dayton rental prices jump highest in U.S.**

A study from a Madison, Wis.-based apartment database found rental prices in March for the Dayton region increased more than any other metro area in the country.

**Dayton Business Journal - 4/19/2018 Reporter Cecilia Salomone**

### **Land bank program discussed in Fostoria**

FOSTORIA — The Seneca County Land Bank was the hot topic at Fostoria City Council's Tuesday meeting.

**The Findlay Courier - 4/18/2018 Reporter LYDIA BAULER**

### **Children's Hospital, Redevelopment Authority plan new market-rate housing in Cincinnati neighborhood**

Cincinnati Children's Hospital and the Greater Cincinnati Redevelopment Authority will partner on a market-rate housing project in Avondale, according Laura Brunner, CEO of the authority.

**Cincinnati Business Courier - 4/13/2018 Reporter Chris Wetterich**

### **Contract OK'd to build riverfront amphitheater, park downtown Youngstown**

The city's board of control signed an \$8 million contract to have Brock & Associates Builders Inc. construct the downtown amphitheater and riverfront park.

**Youngstown Vindicator - 4/13/2018 Reporter David Skolnick**

### **Editorial: Can former foundry bring new life to the South Side?**

Try to picture the South Side of Columbus from the 1880s through the 1900s — a place far different from the struggling urban decline that has marked the neighborhoods known collectively as Columbus' Southern Gateway redevelopment project.

**Columbus Dispatch - 4/11/2018**

### **In Milwaukee, a public housing project aims to revitalize a neighborhood**

Created with a holistic vision, Westlawn Gardens in Milwaukee is 'not your father or mother's public housing'

**Curbed.com - 4/5/2018 Reporter Patrick Sisson**

## **Science and Technology**

### **The Broadband Boost Small-Town America Needs**

Publicly owned internet networks are giving some rural regions an advantage over even the techiest big cities.

**Governing.com 4/19/2018 – Reporter Alex Marshall**

### **Rural Ohioans are one step closer to getting broadband**

Composer Sean Beeson's clients are coastal, but he chooses to live in the serenity and quietude of Crestline, which is about 60 miles north of Columbus, in Richland and Crawford counties.

**Columbus Dispatch - 4/12/2018 Reporter Marion Renault**

## **Transportation**

### **Could Ohio replicate Florida's high-speed rail system?**

MIAMI — A little more than 35 years ago, Ohio voters shot down a Toledo legislator's dream when they defeated a referendum for a penny increase in the state sales tax to pay for development of a high-speed rail program in the state.

**Toledo Blade 4/17/2018**

### **The Inequity of Pedestrian Deaths**

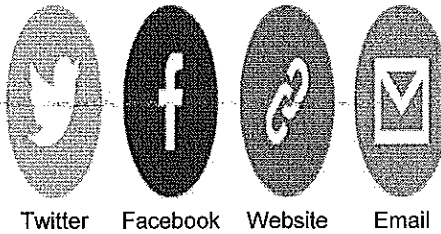
Dangerous, fast-moving streets deplete our communities of wealth and prosperity — and often that cost is hitting the poorest neighborhoods the hardest. This article is the second in an ongoing conversation about this topic. Read the first piece here.

**Strong Towns Media – 4/11/2018**

### **A Model for Cleveland's Transit Woes: Houston**

Alex Baca says following Houston's lead could lead the Greater Cleveland Regional Transit Authority out of a budget and ridership spiral.

**Planetizen 4/10/2018**



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Greater Ohio Policy Center · 399 East Main Street, Suite 220 · Columbus, OH 43215 · USA

**From:** Britton, Taylor on behalf of Biggam, Tim [Tim.Biggam@governor.ohio.gov]  
**Sent:** Friday, April 20, 2018 4:22 PM  
**Subject:** Important Jobs Update  
**Attachments:** 04\_20\_18 Report.pdf

Representative,

I wanted to send you a quick update this afternoon about Ohio's economy.

We had some good news today from the Bureau of Labor Statistics. This morning they reported Ohio created 8,600 private sector jobs last month, doubling the national rate of job growth in March, and taking Ohio to 501,000 private sector jobs created since Governor Kasich took office in 2011.

Ohio's unemployment rate stands at 4.4% the lowest point in 17 years and the budget estimates for both revenue and spending continue to be on track to end this fiscal year in the black.

There is more work to be done to continue to keep Ohio's economy moving forward. While this month's numbers are great news, it's important not to put too much emphasis on one single report, as they tend to fluctuate up or down. However, the overall trend has been strong and positive since 2011.

For more detailed information please see the attached Ohio Economic Dashboard.

Have a great day and enjoy what seems to be the first day of spring in Ohio!

Tim Biggam  
Director, Legislative Affairs  
Office of Governor John R. Kasich  
[Tim.biggam@governor.ohio.gov](mailto:Tim.biggam@governor.ohio.gov)



## **OHIO ECONOMIC DASHBOARD**

**Last Updated: April 20, 2018**

### **JOB CREATION IS UP**

Ohioans have created 501,000 new private sector jobs since Gov. Kasich came into office in January 2011. Currently, there are nearly 4.8 million Ohioans with a private sector job; putting Ohio more than 150,000 jobs over the November 2007 pre-recession level. Ohio continues to rank as one of the top ten job creating states in the nation.

Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, CES Survey

### **JOB GROWTH RATE RANKING SHOWS HISTORIC IMPROVEMENT**

From 1991-2010, Ohio's job growth rate ranked our state 48<sup>th</sup> in the nation, highlighting the historical job creation disadvantage Ohio faced prior to the Kasich administration. Since January 2011, however, Ohio's ranking has jumped to 23<sup>rd</sup>.

Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, CES Survey

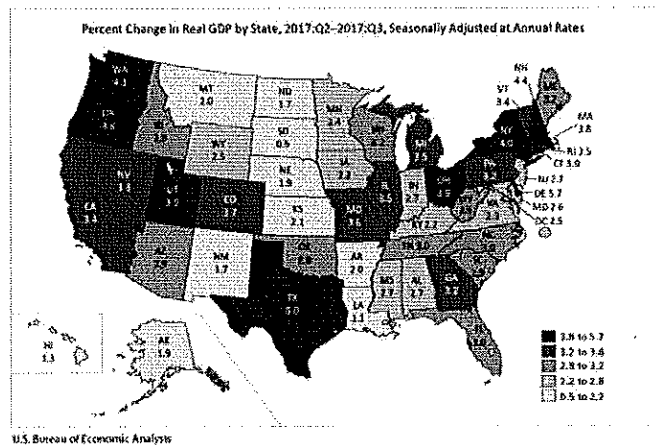
### **UNEMPLOYMENT CONTINUES TO IMPROVE**

Since January 2011, Ohio's unemployment rate has improved from 9.2% to 4.4% today – the best unemployment rate Ohio has experienced since 2001. Ohio's average unemployment rate in the 20 years prior to the Kasich administration was 6.1%. Over the past year, Ohio's unemployment rate has enjoyed the 6<sup>th</sup> fastest improvement of any state in the nation. Additionally, the national unemployment rate hasn't changed since October 2017. Meanwhile, Ohio's has improved a full half percent over the same amount of time.

Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Household Survey

### **A GROWING ECONOMY**

Most recent data from the U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis shows Ohio has the 7<sup>th</sup> highest GDP growth in the nation, surpassing every state in the Plains, Southeast and Great Lakes regions.



SOURCE: U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis

#### **LABOR FORCE HAS GROWN**

Over the past three years, Ohio's labor force has grown by more than 70,000, indicating growing confidence in Ohio's economy.

Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics; Household Survey

#### **INCOMES ARE UP**

Since 2011, Ohio wages are growing one-third faster than the nation. Comparatively, regional price parities, considered a measure of cost-of-living, decreased – indicating dollars go farther here in Ohio compared to the rest of the nation.

Sources: US BLS, CES Survey, 21.16% to 15.98% - average weekly wages, CES Survey; US BEA, Regional Price Parities, June 2017

#### **QUALITY JOB OPPORTUNITIES ABOUND IN OHIO**

Currently on OhioMeansJobs.com, there are more than 170,000 jobs available in Ohio. About half of them provide a salary of at least \$50,000/year.

Source: OhioMeansJobs.com

#### **JOB RETENTION IS UP**

Ohio job retention is at an all-time high. In 2017, Ohio set a record for the second year in a row for the fewest first-time jobless claims on record going back to 1971. Additionally, first-time jobless claims in 2017 were down 48% (down 369,537 claims) compared to 2010. So far in 2018, first-time jobless claims are even better than last year, trending nearly 11 percent below last year's pace.

Source: Ohio Department of Jobs & Family Services, Ohio LMI

#### **NEW BUSINESSES ARE BEING CREATED**

Each year of the Kasich Administration, Ohio has seen a new record for new business entities. In 2017, 117,429 new businesses were created in Ohio, compared to just 80,273 in 2010 – a 46% increase. This past month was the 2<sup>nd</sup> best month for new business filings in state history.

Source: Ohio Secretary of State

#### **OHIO'S STOCK IS UP IN THE BUSINESS COMMUNITY**

- Ohio has moved up in Forbes' Best States for Business Rankings, from a low of 38 in 2011 to No. 14 this year. Forbes credits lower business costs and a dramatically improved economy. Ohio is the most improved state since 2011.
- In their top 25 list of Best Cities for Jobs, Time/Money listed Columbus, Cincinnati and Cleveland in their top ten, making Ohio the only state with three entries on the list.
- Chief Executive Magazine found Ohio has the most improved business climate in America – jumping 12 spots since last year to number 10 overall and a full 34 places since 2010.
- A survey conducted by Development Counselors International named JobsOhio the 3<sup>rd</sup> best economic development organization in the country. In 2011, Ohio was unranked in the same survey.

Sources: <http://www.forbes.com/best-states-for-business/>, <http://time.com/money/4937290/best-cities-for-jobs-2/>, <http://chiefexecutive.net/2016-best-and-worst-states-for-business-full-list/>, <http://aboutdci.com/winning-strategies/>



**From:** Heartland Institute: Jim Lakely

**Sent:** Friday, April 20, 2018 5:02 PM

**To:** Rep76

**Subject:** Heartland Institute is coming to Ohio. We hope to see you at these events.



---

## Americans for Prosperity

### American Pay Raise Tax Reform & Job Growth

**WHAT:** AFP-Ohio Presents:  
American Pay Raise - Tax  
Reform and Job Growth

**WHEN:** Monday, April 23 from  
6:00 p.m. to 7:45 p.m.

**WHAT:** AFP-Ohio Presents:  
American Pay Raise –  
Millennials and Tax Reform

**WHEN:** Thursday, April 26 from  
6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

**WHERE:**

**Strongwater Event Space**  
401 W. Town St.  
Columbus, OH 43215  
RSVP TODAY

**WHERE:**

**The Butcher and Barrel**  
700 Race St.  
Cincinnati, OH 45202  
RSVP TODAY

Millions of Americans are keeping more of their hard-earned paychecks thanks to the American Pay Raise, otherwise known as tax reform.

But now what?

Wondering how exactly the American Pay Raise benefits you? Curious about how we can preserve tax reform's positive benefits going forward?

Wonder no more!

Join AFP-Ohio, the Buckeye Institute and the Heartland Institute on Monday, April 23 for an exciting forum on the impacts of lower taxes on job and economic growth, and an opportunity to network with like-minded professionals!

This is a great opportunity to network with like-minded young professionals and learn more about how tax reform affects you!

But wait, there's more!

On Thursday, April 26, AFP-Ohio, the Buckeye Institute, and the Heartland Institute will also be hosting an event discussing the effect of the American Pay Raise on millennials.

You'll learn what the American Pay Raise means for the current generation and how we can preserve tax reform's benefits going forward.

Hope to see you there!

Register for the 23rd!



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PROSPERITY**



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This message was sent to [rep76@ohiohouse.gov](mailto:rep76@ohiohouse.gov) from [jlakely@heartland.org](mailto:jlakely@heartland.org)

Heartland Institute: Jim Lakely  
The Heartland Institute  
3939 North Wilke Road  
Arlington Heights, IL 60004

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**From:** Gongwer News Service  
**Sent:** Friday, April 20, 2018 6:19 PM  
**To:** DL\_Gongwer  
**Subject:** Ohio Report, Friday, April 20, 2018  
**Attachments:** 180420dayplan.htm; Apr20.htm; 180420plan.htm



## **OHIO REPORT FRIDAY, APRIL 20**

**Energy Standards Bill Timeline Unclear As Another Wind Setback Proposal Is Introduced**

**State Unemployment Drops To Lowest Level In More Than 16 Years**

**Senator Backing Medical Marijuana Audit Bill Supports Review By Commerce Department**

**High Court To Hear Traffic Camera Case**

**Candidates Stress Experience In House District 26 Primary**

**OPA: Pharmacists Can Serve As Educators In Opioid Struggle**

**Medical Pot Program Halt Rejected; Complaint Against DeWine Dismissed; No New Trial For Beck; Buckeye Institute Weighs In On Case...**

**Issue 1 Backers Tout Endorsements; Cordray Takes Credit For Wells Fargo Fine; Yuko Calls For Action On Guns...**

**Sheehy Calls For Further Action On Ag Runoff; OEC Proposes Toxic Chemical Protections**

**Ohio Lands \$26 Million In Federal Opioid Funding; Senators Applaud Disaster Request Approval...**

**Chamber Of Commerce Endorses Issue 1; P&G, Key, More Report Financial Results; Toledo Businesswoman Added To SBAC**

**Governor's Appointments**

**Supplemental Agency Calendar**

## **CALENDARS**

**Day Planner**

**Event Planner**

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## **Daily Activity Planner for Saturday, April 21- Monday, April 23**

### **Legislative Committees**

No legislative committees scheduled.

### **Agency Calendar**

#### **Monday, April 23**

Controlling Board, North Hearing Rm., Senate Bldg., Columbus, 1:30 p.m.  
Human Trafficking Commission, 18th Fl., 150 E. Gay St., Columbus, 2 p.m.

### **Event Planner**

#### **Saturday, April 21**

**YMCA Youth & Government High School State Assembly 2, Statehouse,  
Columbus**

17 S. High St., Suite 630  
Columbus Ohio 43215  
Phone: 614-221-1992 | Fax: 614-221-7844 | Email: [gongwer@gongwer-oh.com](mailto:gongwer@gongwer-oh.com)

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**Volume #87, Report #77 -- Friday, April 20, 2018**

## **Energy Standards Bill Timeline Unclear As Another Wind Setback Proposal Is Introduced**

Senate President Larry Obhof this week referred to ongoing talks over the state's energy standards and wind turbine setback revisions as "a long-term project."

The remark lends further uncertainty to the timeline in which Senate Republicans hope to roll out a substitute bill on a measure (HB 114) that in its current form waters down the state's renewable and energy efficiency benchmarks.

Earlier this month, Sen. Obhof had predicted a sub bill could be ready "in the next few weeks." (See Gongwer Ohio Report, April 6, 2018)

But asked this week about the Senate's priorities in the coming weeks, Sen. Obhof (R-Medina) said: "We've talked a number of times about energy, and particularly 114 probably now is a long-term project."

Sen. Obhof had previously labeled the measure a priority for the first part of the year but the timeline has been pushed back at every juncture as lawmakers grappled with a congressional redistricting ballot issue (SJR 5), the capital budget (HB 529) and other pressing proposals.

Sen. Bill Beagle (R-Tipp City) and Sen. Troy Balderson (R-Zanesville) are spearheading talks on that sub bill but have said the timeline and the extent of the changes to the legislation remain unclear. The caucus has yet to reach a consensus on the plan the senators presented behind closed doors last month. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, March 23, 2018)

Changes to loosen the state's setbacks for wind turbines are expected to be a component of the sub bill and advocates have continued pressing lawmakers in recent weeks to walk back restrictions put in place in a 2014. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, April 12, 2018)

Rep. Fred Strahorn (D-Dayton) on Tuesday introduced his own standalone measure to reduce setbacks (HB 604). His plan joins several other legislative efforts to accomplish that feat, including proposals from Sen. Matt Dolan (SB 238) and Sen. Michael Skindell (SB 184).

The minority leader's proposal would require turbines to be no closer than 1,125 feet from the tip of a turbine to the exterior of the nearest habitable residential structure. Current law, in contrast, measures the distance from the structure's property line.

The measure would also make permanent tax exemptions for tangible personal property of a qualified energy project using renewable energy resources under certain conditions.

Trish Demeter, the Ohio Environmental Council's vice president of energy policy, welcomed the latest attempt.

"I applaud Leader Fred Strahorn for proposing HB604 - a bill which if passed, would pave the way for full scale wind development in Ohio," Ms. Demeter said.

"For too long, Ohioans have missed out on trends towards wind energy due to unnecessarily large setbacks from property lines. Fixing the wind setback issue is critical for further development of wind energy across the state, and bringing Ohio up to speed in the growing clean energy economy."

### **State Unemployment Drops To Lowest Level In More Than 16 Years**

Ohio's unemployment rate dropped a notch to 4.4% in March, maintaining a positive trend of recent months and reflecting the best report since August 2001, according to the Department of Job and Family Services.

The March rate was a drop from 4.5% in February 2018, the agency reported. Total employment increased 10,800 over the month to 5,579,200, and the number of unemployed was down 9,000 to 253,000.

The unemployment total has dropped by 40,000 since March 2017, when the rate was 5.1%, and the state has seen an increase of 54,400 jobs during that period, according to state data compiled in conjunction with the federal Bureau of Labor Statistics.

"Another strong jobs report out today," Gov. John Kasich stated on his Twitter account. His statement was accompanied by a GIF of actor Chuck Norris giving a thumbs-up.

"Since 2011, Ohioans have created 501,000 new private sector jobs, and unemployment is the best it's been since 2001," Mr. Kasich said. "We've come a long way since 2010. Let's keep it going, Ohio!"

Senate President Larry Obhof (R-Medina) said the number of new private jobs reflected an important milestone for the state. The positive news shows the GOP-run legislature's policies are working, he said.

"We work diligently to not only create an environment of possibilities for Ohio's job creators but also to ensure Ohioans from all backgrounds are prepared to take advantage of those opportunities," Sen. Obhof said in a release.

"We've done this through creating a jobs-friendly business environment, developing a jobs-ready workforce and empowering Ohio's small businesses, the backbone of our economy. While this is an important milestone that shows Ohio's policies are working, we have much more to do, and we will continue to build on this progress."



Despite the recent gains, Ohio still lags the nation, as the U.S. unemployment rate for March was 4.1%. That figure was unchanged from February and down from 4.5% in March 2017.

During a month when most sectors saw job gains, the best performers were the private service-providing sector, which added 5,700 positions, as well as trade, transportation, and utilities (+3,400). ODJFS noted the most significant losses in information (-700) and other services (-500).

Agency spokesman Bret Crow said eight industries or sub-sectors experienced record-high employment levels. They are: transportation, warehousing and utilities; finance and insurance; educational and health services; educational services; health care and social assistance; leisure and hospitality; accommodation and food services; and state government.

The March gains in the construction industry, which was up 1,200 jobs, represented the third consecutive month of steady job growth in the sector, which has gained 5,700 jobs over the last year, Mr. Crow said.

In addition, the state versus federal comparison on job growth favored Ohio, as the state added jobs at a rate that was more than double the national rate, or 0.19% versus 0.07%, he said. And the average weekly earnings for Ohioans is up \$3.14 compared to last month and \$28.45 compared to last year, both outperforming the national rate.

"It's an across-the-board positive report with lower unemployment and new job growth that doubled the nation's," Mr. Crow said.

Andrew J. Kidd, senior economist with the Economic Research Center at The Buckeye Institute, said the latest jobs report shows "Ohio's job market is allowing individuals who desire jobs to get jobs."

"However, Ohio has yet to reach the national unemployment rate of 4.1%, he added. "This, as well as a labor force participation rate lower than the national average, shows that Ohio still has work to do. The right reforms, such as closing tax loopholes and removing unnecessary barriers to employment through occupational licensing, would create opportunities for sustained job growth."

"Ohio in 2018 has experienced positive job growth. Yet, another month of an unchanged labor force participation rate once again implies that some individuals are still not searching for jobs," Mr. Kidd added.

Hannah Halbert, researcher with Policy Matters Ohio, said the state has gained more jobs in the first three months of 2018 than in all of 2017.

"While labor force participation suggests there is still room for improvement, Ohio's labor market is finally tightening," she said. "Even so, many jobs pay too little and offer too-few hours, making it nearly impossible to afford basics like food and health care without

public support. Raising the minimum wage, restoring the 40-hour work week, and supporting paid leave would make the most of this tighter labor market and help rebuild a path to the middle class."

Ms. Halbert said Ohio continues to underperform the nation's 12-month rate for job growth and has "vastly underperformed" the rest of the U.S. since the 2005 tax overhaul was enacted.

"Ohio is not out of the woods. A bad month or two could erase this streak and more months of solid growth are needed to take up the remaining slack in our labor market," she said.

### **Senator Backing Medical Marijuana Audit Bill Supports Review By Commerce Department**

A senator who sponsored legislation to require an audit of the medical marijuana licensing process said he's supportive of efforts by the Department of Commerce to perform its own review.

Sen. Bill Coley (R-Liberty Twp.) introduced a proposal (SB 264) in February to require a state auditor investigation of DOC's awarding of provisional licenses for medical marijuana growers, including a set timeframe for the review and the awarding of certificates of operation.

It was intended to remove any clouds of suspicion or impropriety from the licensing process, the sponsor said. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, February 22, 2018)

That measure had its first hearing this week in the Senate Health, Human Services & Medicaid Committee. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, April 17, 2018)

Since February, DOC and other agencies involved in the medical marijuana program have worked to tamp down expectations for the initiative's Sept. 8 go-live date, saying it's unlikely all license recipients will be operational by then. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, April 5, 2018)

The agency worked with an attorney general-appointed special counsel to hire a third-party auditor to review the scoring and find possible improvements. The department reported Friday that Ernst & Young was retained for the work, which does not have a set deadline for completion but is expected to take "a matter of weeks" to finish.

Sen. Coley complimented the department on that effort and said the goal of his legislation is simply to ensure the state has a fair process.

"You could easily argue that they're already doing those things," he said in an interview. "I want to make sure it gets done and it gets followed through."

He encouraged the department to work with the auditor's office to ensure the process is thoroughly reviewed.

"I support Commerce going through and looking at the whole thing, re-scoring if necessary and awarding additional licenses if warranted," he said. "I think that's all a good thing and it would be for the benefit of all patients and the state of Ohio."

Sen. Coley said he's confident the department will correct any issues.

"I think they realize that some mistakes were made and they want to correct them," he said.

DOC will go before the Controlling Board Monday to request more than \$5 million for staffing, legal costs and other expenses for the medical marijuana program. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, April 16, 2018)

### **High Court To Hear Traffic Camera Case**

The battle over automated traffic cameras will continue next week with the latest front being the Ohio Supreme Court.

The city of Toledo and the state are at odds over a previous budget (HB64, 131<sup>st</sup> General Assembly) provision that allows the state to reduce Local Government Fund distributions for non-compliance with traffic camera restrictions (SB342, 130<sup>th</sup> General Assembly), some of which were struck down by the high court. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, July 26, 2017)

Ten days prior to the traffic camera restrictions becoming law, the city asked for and received an injunction from the Lucas County Common Pleas Court, the high court reported.

Lawmakers then passed the biennial budget containing the LGF reduction provisions. The city again asked for and received an injunction from the trial court, which found the state would be in contempt if it withheld funding from cities based on non-compliance with a law found to be unconstitutional.

The Sixth District Court of Appeals upheld the ruling, leading to the state appeal to the high court, where it argues the budget provision is a reporting requirement and a formula for discretionary spending. (Docket)

"Toledo has no 'home rule' right to receive money from the General Assembly," the state writes in a brief. "It is not 'losing' money that it has, but rather choosing to give up money in order to run its traffic-camera program as it sees fit."

The state also contends that the city should have been required to file a separate lawsuit in the matter and that the injunction is a violation of separation of powers.

"The Sixth District's holding invades the legislative power and exceeds the judicial power because courts do not have roving license to enjoin legislation," the state argues. "Courts must instead draw the power to block legislation from specific constitutional prohibitions."

The city, however, claims that lawmakers are seeking to coerce compliance with unconstitutional laws.

It also argues that the state is the guilty party when it comes to the violation of separation of powers.

"If the General Assembly could simply ignore the judicial branch any time legislation is struck by withholding funds to those entities that do not comply with the unconstitutional legislative acts, then there is no separation of powers because the legislature would reign supreme," the city writes in its brief.

"This type of legislation is not a 'new' law that merits a separate lawsuit and separate constitutional analysis, but moreover an affront to the authority of the judiciary. The Penalty Provisions try to avoid judicial control by reenacting unconstitutional laws."

The case is slated for oral arguments as another measure (HB 410) authored by the primary sponsor of the 2014 law works its way through the General Assembly.

Rep. Bill Seitz's (R-Cincinnati) legislation would eliminate the use of administrative hearings when a civil citation is issued for a traffic violation recorded by a photo-monitoring device and require local governments that use traffic-monitoring devices to annually file a report with the tax commissioner detailing how much revenue is generated from their use which will then be subtracted from the LGF distribution.

The court will hear three other cases next week:

- In *State v. Dunson*, a Montgomery County man convicted of murder and aggravated robbery will ask the justices to set aside \$6,199 in court costs.
- The court in *East Manufacturing v. Testa* will determine if a Portage County company is eligible for a use tax exemption for the purchase of natural gas it uses to heat six buildings where aluminum truck trailers are constructed.
- A bank will argue that despite federal rules requiring a face-to-face meeting with a borrower after three missed mortgage payments prior to proceeding with a foreclosure it should be allowed to move forward because the meeting occurred during court-ordered mediation after the second attempt to foreclose in the case of *Wells Fargo Bank v. Burd*.

**Candidates Stress Experience In House District 26 Primary**

A Columbus City School Board member and a law clerk with a background in youth advocacy each say their breadth of experience make them the ideal candidates for the 26<sup>th</sup> House District.

The Democrat-leaning district is currently represented by Rep. Hearcel Craig (D-Columbus), whose bid for the Senate is opening the path for a new face. Michael Cole, 45, and Erica Crawley, 37, are both working to secure the Democratic nomination, after which the victor will likely face Republican Shareeque Sadiq in November.

Mr. Cole said he has a track record of "having gotten things done in the most tough circumstances" thanks to his two terms on the school board.

"It's one thing when the whole deck's lined up for you and you're accomplishing some things of the work and will of people," he said. "It's another to have every kind of almost insurmountable obstacle against you whether it's state, federal, local discontent for something and still move the needle of achievement."

Ms. Crawley, while touting her own experience, credits her desire to enter public office to her great aunt who in 2007, shortly before her death, asked her during a conversation on political leaders, "Why not you?"

"She was never elected, never interested in politics per se, but she gave her time," Ms. Crawley said. "She spent a lot of time with the church, with homeless families. She never met an enemy. People loved my aunt and she loved people. I would hope she would be proud of me if I could be half the woman she was and make the impact she made."

Mr. Cole is originally from Cleveland but first came to Columbus as a student at Ohio State University. "This city kind of had me at hello," he said.

He picked up a master's degree in communication at Seton Hall University and then chose to return to Columbus where he sought out service opportunities including a five-year stint as area commissioner in Westgate.

"The opportunity and potential that this city offers I think is tremendous," Mr. Cole said. "I think it was almost a spiritual calling to end up in this city."

He said he worked on neighborhood safety and beautification issues, before segueing into politics and hosting a public affairs radio show. He was first elected to the school board in 2013 and reelected last year. He's currently vice president of the board, which is dominated by Democrats.

"I came with the mindset of working to ensure and strengthen accountability, curriculum, transparency and safety in the district," Mr. Cole said. "I'm committed to bringing that same mindset to the Statehouse."

Even though it contains solely Democrats, he said, the school board has taught him valuable lessons.

"Even if everyone's on the same page from the politics standpoint everyone brings different points of view, skills, knowledge and attitude," Mr. Cole said. "Working among a body politic making decisions and brokering decisions...on matters that effect people is something I've tremendously learned from this experience."

Ms. Crawley is also a transplant, hailing originally from Youngstown. She spent 2000-2003 serving in the United States Navy in Virginia. After giving birth to twin girls - Hope and Faith, who are now 13 - she moved to Cleveland where she finished her college degree in criminology with a focus on juvenile delinquency.

Next was a stint in Atlanta where she received her masters and had an array of jobs centered on supporting youth including work for the Black Child Development Institute and the Court Appointed Special Advocate program.

She returned to Columbus where she attended Capital University Law School, graduating in 2017 with a concentration in civil litigation. Following that, she clerked for Honda North America and since 2016 has clerked for Eastman and Smith's Columbus office.

Both candidates list education as a central plank of their platforms. For Ms. Crawley that means ensuring equal access to quality education.

"I am an advocate for universal Pre-K," she said. "But also making sure all of our children have the same opportunities. Addressing school funding and school resources definitely plays a part."

She said she also wants to expand trade school options for young students and to focus on economic development.

"Especially in the 26<sup>th</sup> District there is disinvestment and underinvestment in that community," she said. "I would love to focus on micro-business and small businesses and making sure my neighbors have access to those resources."

She added she'd press for equal access in other areas, such as healthcare, including addiction and mental health support services.

"With that, making sure our aging population has the services they need," Ms. Crawley added. "There are a lot of grandparents taking care of their grandchildren and they don't have the resources necessary to do that effectively."

On the education front, Mr. Cole said he wants to restore consistency, including possibly by requiring five-year curriculum plans. He likened his experience on the board to being Harry Houdini locked in a box with the key inside as he's thrown over Niagara Falls.

"I find out a lot of what confines public schools period...is they are all boxed in by state laws that don't take consideration to how certain things affect us," he said. "From funding to property taxes to education and curriculum and how important it is to make sure it's steady, consistent."

In other areas, Mr. Cole said he wants to alleviate property tax burdens and create more opportunities for mixed income housing.

"I think there are any number of ways we can look at funding public education that doesn't solely fall on the backs of property owners, particularly in poor communities," he said. "I think we can do some income tax sharing. ... I think there are some win-wins. We just have to turn over some stones."

Ms. Crawley said she's the candidate voters should turn to if they seek experience thanks to a career and life experience span the spectrum from nonprofit to for-profit, military and civilian.

"I've had a commitment to being of service to others," she said. "If you look at my career either professionally or in volunteerism...I have always had a commitment to making a difference in the communities in which I lived and making a difference especially for individuals who come from poverty or low-income families."

Mr. Cole and his wife Lee have three children, ages 21, 15 and 14. He is a substitute social studies teacher who enjoys motorcycles and muscle cars.

In addition to spending time with her daughters, Ms. Crawley said she collects books, particularly of the professional development variety or autobiographies.

**Subscribers Note:** *This story is part of a series focusing on key primary races for Ohio legislative seats. See Gongwer's Election Page for more information on 2018 contests, including our Key Races.*

### **OPA: Pharmacists Can Serve As Educators In Opioid Struggle**

From asking customers to question potentially counterfeit pills to teaching them how to dissolve old medication in cat litter or coffee grounds, Ohio's pharmacists have a key role in fighting the state's opioid epidemic.

That was the message from officials with the Ohio Pharmacists Association to the nearly 1,000 pharmacists and students who attended the group's 140<sup>th</sup> annual conference and trade show Friday at the Greater Columbus Convention Center.

Ernie Boyd, executive director of the OPA, said pharmacists and the public need to "keep the pressure on" to get patients to request other medications and medical professionals to write fewer prescriptions for opioids.

Mr. Boyd said over-the-counter drugs can be a fine alternative to prescription opiates. He said he thinks it was a "major mistake" to allow ibuprofen and other anti-inflammatory or pain-relief medication to be sold without a prescription.

"In the public's mind, (ibuprofen) is as innocuous as cheese or rutabaga because it's sold next to those products," he said. "I think that's insane. These are very potent drugs."

The public tends to believe prescription drugs inherently are more effective and over-the-counter drugs safer, Mr. Boyd said, adding that's not always the case.

The convention included a demonstration of multiple ways people can dispose of old or unneeded medication, from using specialty kits to mixing it with water and coffee grounds or cat litter to make it unpalatable to animals and children. Mr. Boyd said pharmacists can explain the importance and methods of disposal and serve on local drug task forces to assist in the opiate fight.

The group also advised pharmacists to explain the importance of avoiding medication from potentially dubious sources, whether it be an acquaintance or an online retailer.

"The large majority of internet sites are (fraudulent)," Mr. Boyd said. "Ninety-eight percent of the online pharmacies are not pharmacies at all. They're fake."

He said counterfeit pills may look virtually indistinguishable from pills produced by the actual manufacturer and could include powerful opioids such as fentanyl and carfentanil. The consequences of consuming the bootleg drugs range from addiction to death.

Dr. Michael Ybarra, deputy vice president of advocacy and strategic alliances at PhRMA, said the public needs to get medicine from a trustworthy source. He said buying from "rogue online pharmacies" can be a dangerous move.

"The safest thing to do is to buy at a pharmacy," he said. "The U.S. distribution system is totally closed (with) FDA inspected facilities."

Mr. Boyd said there are some legitimate online pharmacy sites, which typically feature the National Association of Boards of Pharmacy's Verified Internet Pharmacy Practice Sites logo and have a pharmacy domain names.

The most important advice for members of the public, Mr. Boyd said, might simply be to stop using medication that was not prescribed to them.

"You just don't share any of the stuff, period," he said."

**Medical Pot Program Halt Rejected; Complaint Against DeWine Dismissed; No New Trial For Beck; Buckeye Institute Weighs In On Case...**



A Franklin County judge on Friday declined to put the state's medical marijuana program on hold.

Instead, Franklin County Common Pleas Court Judge Richard Frye will consider the matter again at a May 11 hearing.

"We're pleased that there's been a decision not to pause the program," said Thomas Rosenberger, a spokesman for the National Cannabis Industry Association of Ohio.

The Friday hearing was a result of a lawsuit filed by Ohio Releaf LLC, which was denied a cultivator's license and subsequently sued the Department of Commerce for what it alleges is a failure to comply with public record laws and to hold a timely administrative appeal hearing.

DOC has hired an independent auditor to review its processes. *(See separate story)*

**Dismissed Complaint:** A three-judge panel has dismissed one of four counts of allegedly violating canons of the Ohio Judicial Code of Conduct filed against Ohio Supreme Court Justice Patrick DeWine.

The count alleges that Justice DeWine asked Hamilton County Prosecutor Joe Deters, who had 48 cases pending before the court at the time the complaint was filed, to hire his son for an internship.

The remaining allegations involve Justice DeWine's father, Attorney General Mike DeWine. The complaint alleges Justice DeWine improperly failed to recuse himself from cases in which AG DeWine is named as a party and that he appears on his father's gubernatorial campaign web site.

Justice DeWine has denied all of the alleged charges.

**New Trial:** The nation's highest court has declined to order a new trial for a former state lawmaker.

The U.S. Supreme Court declined to grant the request of former Rep. Peter Beck for a new trial. The decision was issued without comment.

Mr. Beck in 2015 was found guilty of 13 charges and sentenced to serve four years in prison. However, a state appellate court in 2016 overturned 10 charges and Mr. Beck served just 16 months in prison.

**Amicus Brief:** The Buckeye Institute has filed an amicus brief with the Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals asking it to strike down a Tennessee law it says discriminates against outdoor advertisements and signs with ideological messages.

The group said the law, which is designed to be in compliance with the Highway Beautification Act of 1965, is a violation of the First Amendment.

"While we all enjoy a scenic drive and beautiful roadways, the First Amendment is even more precious to Americans and its protections must not be violated in the name of highway beautification," President and CEO Robert Alt said in a statement. "Restricting the placement of outdoor advertisements solely based on the sign's message is a clear infringement of free speech and must be overturned."

**Crew Dispute:** Major League Soccer and the Precourt Sport Ventures, owner of the Columbus Crew, have asked the Franklin County Court of Common Pleas to dismiss a lawsuit designed to prevent the team from moving to Texas.

In a motion to dismiss, the groups call the Art Modell law "blatantly unconstitutional."

"The statute violates the dormant Commerce Clause of the United States Constitution because it both discriminates against out-of-state residents and impermissibly interferes with the defendants' abilities to conduct their business in interstate commerce," the filing reads.

The law requires the owner of an Ohio professional sports team that plans to cease playing most of its home games in the state to provide six months' notice in order to give others an opportunity to purchase the franchise.

**Disciplinary Cases:** The Board of Professional Conduct on Friday announced that it has filed 10 disciplinary case reports with the high court.

### **Issue 1 Backers Tout Endorsements; Cordray Takes Credit For Wells Fargo Fine; Yuko Calls For Action On Guns...**

The bipartisan Coalition for Redistricting Reform, the group backing Issue 1, on Friday announced a slew of endorsements for the ballot measure.

The endorsements include the Ohio AFL-CIO, the Ohio Chamber of Commerce, the Ohio Council of Churches, the Ohio Education Association, the Ohio Environmental Council, the Ohio Farm Bureau and the NAACP Ohio Chapter.

Campaign advisor Keary McCarthy in a statement said the endorsements "truly signal the bipartisan nature of fixing the way we draw our congressional districts in Ohio."

"Our state lawmakers stepped up to make this bipartisan fix to a very partisan problem a reality, and I'm thrilled to see these powerful groups across Ohio come aboard," he added.

**Wells Fargo:** Richard Cordray on Friday weighed in on the news that the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau fined Wells Fargo \$1 billion.

The bureau's former director in a statement sought to downplay the role that acting Director Mick Mulvaney played in issuing the fine.

"Mulvaney has brought no new enforcement actions since he has been at the CFPB," he said. "Investigations that take many months or even years, and that are just now being finalized, are due to the aggressive work my team did to bring predatory behavior to light. To suggest this is the work of Mulvaney, who has done nothing but throw sticks in the spokes of a talented, hard-working CFPB team of devoted public servants is preposterous."

**Gun Legislation:** Senate Minority Leader Kenny Yuko (D-Richmond Hts.) used the anniversary of the Columbine school shooting to call for legislation to reduce gun violence.

Sen. Yuko in a statement commended students who on Friday walked out of school to mark the 19<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the school shooting.

"Our young people have sent us a clear message: we need to act now to protect them. The Senate Democratic Caucus has introduced numerous common-sense proposals to address gun violence and help keep our kids safe. Many of these bills have yet to receive a hearing," he said.

"As a leader in the Ohio Senate, I know we have to do more to stop violence in our schools. Schools should be places where children worry about upcoming math tests, and not about active shooters."

**Gun Rally:** Three gun rights groups on Saturday will hold a "Patriot Day Rally" at the Statehouse.

The 11 a.m. event hosted by Ohioans for Concealed Carry, Ohio Carry and the Buckeye Firearms Association will feature historical information on the role of private gun ownership in the country's founding and immigrants who will talk about their experiences before and after coming to America, according to a release.

**NFIB Endorsement:** Rep. Larry Householder (R-Glenford), a speaker hopeful, has the backing of National Federation of Independent Business/Ohio in his reelection bid, the group announced Friday.

Roger Geiger in a statement said Rep. Householder "understands the issues important to Ohio entrepreneurs as demonstrated by his strong voting record with NFIB."

### **Sheehy Calls For Further Action On Ag Runoff; OEC Proposes Toxic Chemical Protections**

Rep. Michael Sheehy (D-Oregon) criticized state leaders this week after a recent report showed more work is needed to curb the runoff of phosphorus and other nutrients into Ohio's waterways.

His remarks were centered on the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency's Nutrient Mass Balance Study. The report found "no clear decrease" in nutrient loading, especially from nonpoint sources like agricultural runoff. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, April 17, 2018)

Rep. Sheehy in a statement singled out farmers for their role in contributing to runoff that can fuel harmful algal blooms in Lake Erie.

"This new report shows that despite years of deceptive talking points from powerful industry representatives in Columbus, we know where all this excess phosphorus pollution has been coming from," Rep. Sheehy said.

"It's not complicated: if you are causing nearly 90% of a problem, you should participate in searching for a solution," he continued. "Instead, their lobbyists have prioritized fighting against policy solutions and even shifting the blame to urban centers that suffer the worst of these consequences."

The Ohio Farm Bureau previously said the report shows that agriculture must play a role in improving water quality. But a spokesman said new regulations aren't needed in the group's view.

**Chemicals:** The Ohio Environmental Council is requesting the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency crack down on toxic chemicals.

The request comes in the form of a petition for rulemaking filed by the council seeking new protections against carcinogen perfluorooctanoic acid and other substances that can be pumped into water and air by manufactures.

"These companies need to stop emitting these chemicals before extensively studying them, and our proposed rules would stop this dangerous practice," said Chris Tavenor, an OEC law fellow.

Copies of the request were also submitted to President Donald Trump, Gov. John Kasich, Ohio EPA Director Craig Butler, Attorney General Mike DeWine and members of Ohio's congressional delegation.

### **Ohio Lands \$26 Million In Federal Opioid Funding; Senators Applaud Disaster Request Approval...**

For the second consecutive year, Ohio is poised to receive a \$26 million funding infusion to buoy efforts to combat the opioid epidemic.

The funding announced this week comes from the 21<sup>st</sup> Century CURES Act passed in 2016. It's part of \$485 million in grants to be divvied up among states this year. Ohio received a similar amount of dollars under the program last year during the first round of funding. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, April 20, 2017)

"This is good news for Ohio, and these new funds will help our efforts to combat the heroin and prescription drug epidemic gripping our state," U.S. Sen. Rob Portman (R-Terrace Park) said in a statement. "This is another positive step forward, but we must do more, and that's why I continue to push for common-sense solutions like the STOP Act and CARA 2.0 that will help us turn the tide of addiction in Ohio and around the country."

U.S. Sen. Sherrod Brown (D-Cleveland) likewise applauded word of the additional funding.

"For too long, Ohio communities have been desperate for the federal government to step up and provide the necessary resources to effectively combat the opioid epidemic," Sen. Brown said. "While we know there is more work to be done, this funding is a meaningful step forward for Ohio. It's important that the state work to get this funding out to local communities quickly as they continue to battle this epidemic."

The dollars are aimed at boosting evidence-based programs and are overseen by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

**Emergency:** Sens. Brown and Portman also welcomed President Donald Trump's approval of Gov. John Kasich's request for disaster assistance following largescale flooding in February. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, April 17, 2018)

Sen. Brown said the declaration "will go a long way in helping reassure Ohio communities impacted by last month's devastating floods that they are not alone."

Sen. Portman said, "It will allow our affected communities to get much-needed federal assistance following this winter's terrible storms."

**Wright-Patterson:** Ohio delegates urged the Pentagon to pick the Dayton-area Air Force base to house the F-35 Hybrid Product Support Integrator Organization.

Wright-Patterson is "uniquely qualified" to handle that role, which could mean an additional 400 jobs, all of Ohio's senators and representatives wrote to Secretary of the Air Force Heather Wilson.

"Based on the criteria used during the strategic basing process, we believe WPAFB's workforce makes the base the logical location for HPSI," the lawmakers wrote. "The basing process specifically requires acquisition professionals who are Defense Acquisition Workforce Improvement Act certified with tactical fighter support experience, and WPAFB's workforce of engineers, programs managers, logistics managers, and contracting personnel would provide HPSI with an exceptional staff."

#### **Chamber Of Commerce Endorses Issue 1; P&G, Key, More Report Financial Results; Toledo Businesswoman Added To SBAC**

The Ohio Chamber of Commerce has thrown its support behind a ballot issue aimed at reforming the state's redistricting guidelines.

The group's board of directors earlier this week voted to support Issue 1.

"The Ohio Chamber has long recognized the need for sensible changes to the redistricting process and we are pleased to join the bipartisan coalition supporting State Issue 1," President & CEO Andrew E. Doehrel said in a statement. "Job creators know the value of a fair and competitive playing field in the marketplace, and State Issue 1 will bring this element of necessary, healthy competition to congressional campaigns, as well."

Mr. Doehrel said the group twice in the past 15 years opposed redistricting efforts that "did not represent a consensus approach."

**Procter & Gamble:** The Cincinnati-based company saw net sales of \$16.3 billion in the third quarter, up by 4% from the previous year.

Organic sales increased 1% for the quarter ended March 31, P&G reported. Diluted net earnings per share were \$0.95, an increase of 2%.

Operating cash flow was \$3.4 billion for the quarter, while adjusted free cash flow productivity was 95%, according to the company.

P&G returned \$3.2 billion to shareholders via \$1.8 billion of dividend payments and \$1.4 billion of common stock repurchase.

"We delivered modest top- and bottom-line growth in a challenging macro environment in the third quarter," Chairman, President and CEO David Taylor said in a statement. "We have large businesses in several difficult markets. The ecosystems in which we operate around the world are being disrupted and transformed. We will change at an even faster rate -- winning through superiority, cost and cash productivity and a strengthened organization and culture."

**KeyCorp:** The Cleveland-based company reported \$402 million in net income, or \$0.38 per common share, in the first quarter.

The financial services company reported net income of \$296 million over the same period in the previous year.

"First quarter was a good start to the year, with continuing momentum in our core businesses, as we grew and expanded relationships with our targeted clients," Chairman and CEO Beth Mooney said in a statement. "Revenue increased over 3% from the same period last year, driven by a higher net interest income, solid loan growth and stronger fee income."

**First Financial:** The Cincinnati-based bank reported net income of \$30.5 million, or \$0.49 per diluted common share, in the first quarter.

First financial reported net income of \$24.8 million, or \$0.40 per diluted common share, in the previous quarter.

"We are extremely pleased with our strong first quarter performance, representing our 110th consecutive quarter of profitability and top-quartile level returns," Executive Chairman Claude Davis said in a statement. "We are also excited about our recent merger with MainSource which closed on April 1st. We welcome our new colleagues from MainSource and together look forward to building an even stronger company going forward."

**SBAC:** Lt. Gov. Mary Taylor has appointed Jennifer Zalecki to the Small Business Advisory Council.

Ms. Zalecki serves as president and CEO of Toledo-based Battery Wholesale. The company, which Ms. Zalecki's father founded in 1983, operates seven retail stores in the greater Toledo area.

"Jennifer has been an effective small business advocate through her service to the Toledo Regional Chamber of Commerce and has demonstrated her high business acumen through the success of her own company," Lt. Gov. Taylor said.

### **Governor's Appointments**

**Ohio Thoroughbred Race Fund Advisory Council:** Kimpton E. Williams of Waynesville for a term beginning April 20, 2018, and ending January 31, 2021.

**State Board of Emergency Medical, Fire, and Transportation Services:** Capt. Kevin T. Uhl of Sycamore Township for a term beginning April 20, 2018, and ending November 12, 2019.

**Public Benefits Advisory Board:** Dasmine Wright of Columbus for a term beginning April 20, 2018, and ending June 30, 2018.

### **Supplemental Agency Calendar** **Monday, April 23**

Human Trafficking Commission, 18th Fl., 150 E. Gay St., Columbus, 2 p.m.

### **Friday, April 27**

Accountancy Board, 77 S. High St., Conference Room West B & C, 31st Floor, Columbus, 10 a.m.

17 S. High St., Suite 630  
Columbus Ohio 43215

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## **Event Planner**

**Saturday, April 21**

**YMCA Youth & Government High School State Assembly 2, Statehouse, Columbus**

**Tuesday, April 24**

**OAHU Annual Day at the Statehouse, Sheraton Columbus Hotel at Capitol Square, 75 East State Street, Columbus**

**Rep. Andy Brenner (R-Powell) fundraiser, Athletic Club of Columbus - Parlor A/B, 136 E. Broad Street, Columbus, 11:30 a.m., (Sponsor: \$1,000 | Host: \$500 | Guest: \$350 to Brenner for Ohio)**

**Sen. Matt Huffman (R-Lima) & Sen. John Eklund (R-Chardon) fundraiser, Pins, 141 N. 4th Street, Columbus, 5 p.m., (Sponsor: \$1,000 | Host: \$500 | Guest: \$350 to Matt Huffman for Ohio and/or Friends of John Eklund)**

**House Speaker Cliff Rosenberger (R-Clarksville) fundraiser, Club 185, 185 E. Livingston Ave., Columbus, 5 p.m., (Chair: \$3,700; Sponsor: \$1,370 to Committee to Elect Cliff Rosenberger)**

**Ohio Chemistry Technology Council's 30th Annual Legislative Reception, Renaissance Columbus Downtown Hotel, 50 North Third Street, Columbus, 5:30 p.m.**

**Ohio Aggregates and Industrial Minerals Association 20th Annual Legislative Reception, Statehouse Atrium, Columbus, 5:30 p.m.**

**Wednesday, April 25**

**American Heart Association/American Stroke Association Advocacy Day, Riffe Center, 77 S. High St., Davidson Theatre, Columbus**

**Sen. Bill Beagle (R-Tipp City) and Sen. Peggy Lehner (R-Kettering) fundraiser, Pins, 141 N. 4th Street, Columbus, 5 p.m., (Sponsor: \$1,000 | Host: \$500 | Guest: \$350 to Citizens for Bill Beagle and/or Citizens for Lehner)**

**Sen. Scott Oelslager (R-N. Canton) & Sen. Frank Hoagland (R-Adena) fundraiser, Athletic Club of Columbus - 136 E. Broad Street, Columbus, 5 p.m., (Checks to Oelslager for Ohio Committee and/or Hoagland for Ohio)**

**Rep. Jim Hughes (R-Columbus) fundraiser, Valters at the Mannerchor, 976 S. High St., Columbus, 5:30 p.m., (Host: \$1,000, Sponsor: \$500; Patron: \$250, Individual: \$75 to Committee for Jim Hughes)**

**Thursday, April 26**

**Deadline to file pre-primary campaign finance reports**

**Rep. Glenn Holmes (D-McDonald) fundraiser, Vernon's Italian Ristorante, 720 Youngstown-Warren Road, Niles, 5 p.m., (Event Sponsor \$1500, Supporter \$1000,**

Friend \$500, Table Sponsor \$300, Individual \$60 to Committee to Elect Glenn Holmes)

Rep. Nathan Manning (R-N. Ridgeville) fundraiser, Berry's Restaurant, 15 W. Main Street, Norwalk, 5 p.m., (Sponsor: \$250 to Nathan Manning for Ohio)

Rep. Anne Gonzales (R-Westerville) fundraiser, Aloft Columbus Westerville, 32 Heatherdown Drive, Westerville, 5:30 p.m., (Sponsor: \$1,000 | Host: \$500 | Guest: \$250 to Citizens for Anne Gonzales)

Rep. Hearcel Craig (D-Columbus) fundraiser, The Lincoln Caf~~e~~ 740 E. Long St., Columbus, 5:30 p.m., (\$250, \$100, \$50, \$25 to Friends of Hearcel F. Craig)

### **Tuesday, May 1**

Lobbyists/Employers can begin filing January-April 2018 Activity & Expenditure Reports

### **Wednesday, May 2**

Pro-life Legislative Day

### **Thursday, May 3**

Rep. Kristina Roegner (R-Hudson) fundraiser, Portage Country Club, 240 N. Portage Path, Akron, 5:30 p.m., (Chair: \$5,000 | Sponsor: \$2,500 | Host: \$1,000 | Guest: \$250 to Kristina Daley Roegner for Ohio)

### **Tuesday, May 8**

Primary election day

### **Thursday, May 10**

YMCA Youth & Government Model United Nations, Statehouse, Columbus

### **Friday, May 11**

YMCA Youth & Government Model United Nations, Statehouse, Columbus

### **Saturday, May 12**

YMCA Youth & Government Model United Nations, Statehouse, Columbus

### **Tuesday, May 15**

Deadline for most public officials and employees to file personal financial disclosure statements.

Ohio Association of Health Plans Annual Legislative Reception, Statehouse Rotunda, Columbus, 5 p.m., (Please RSVP to Stacy Bewley at [sbewley@oahp.org](mailto:sbewley@oahp.org) or for any questions call (614) 228-4662.)

Rep. John Rogers (D-Mentor-on-the-Lake) & Rep. John Patterson (D-Jefferson) fundraiser, Club 185, 185 E. Livingston Ave., Columbus, 5:30 p.m., (Sponsor Levels: Sponsor \$1,000, Host \$500, Friend \$350 to Friends of Rogers and Committee to Elect John Patterson. RSVP with Jenna Gravalis at 551-429-9895 or [jgravalis@ohiodems.org](mailto:jgravalis@ohiodems.org))

### **Wednesday, May 16**

Ohio Auctioneers Association legislative day  
Rep. Michele Lepore-Hagan (D-Youngstown) fundraiser, Einstein Bros. Bagels, 41 S. High Street, Columbus, 8 a.m., (Sponsor \$1,000, Host \$500, Friend \$350 to Michele Lepore-Hagan for State Representative)  
2018 Arts Day & Governor's Awards for the Arts in Ohio Luncheon, The Columbus Athenaeum, 32 North Fourth Street, Columbus, 12 p.m.

### **Tuesday, May 22**

Ohio Cable Telecommunications Association Legislative Reception & Technology Demo, 77 S. High St., Capitol Theater Lobby, Columbus, 5 p.m.  
Rep. David Leland (D-Columbus) fundraiser, Market 65, 65 East State Street, Columbus, 5:30 p.m., (Guest - \$250; Host - \$500; Sponsor - \$1,000; Gold Sponsor-\$2,500 to Friends of David Leland)

### **Wednesday, May 23**

Rep. Kent Smith (D-Euclid) fundraiser, Einstein Bros. Bagels, 41 S. High Street, Columbus, 8 a.m., (Sponsor \$1,000, Host \$500, Friend \$350 to Kent Smith Committee)  
Rep. John Becker (R-Union Township) fundraiser, Ringside, 19 N. Pearl St., Columbus, 11:30 a.m., (Host: \$1000; Sponsor:\$500; Host:\$350 to Friends of Becker)  
Rep. Doug Green (R-Mt. Orab) fundraiser, OHROC , 21 W Broad St. 7th Floor, Columbus, 4:30 p.m., (Host: \$1000; Sponsor: \$500; Host: \$350 to Committee to Elect Doug Green)

### **Thursday, May 24**

Rep. Rick Perales (R-Beavercreek) golf outing fundraiser

### **Thursday, May 31**

JLEC Deadline for filing January-April 2018 Activity & Expenditure Reports

### **Friday, June 1**

Sen. Gayle Manning (R-N. Ridgeville) & Rep. Nathan Manning (R-N. Ridgeville) golf outing fundraiser, Bob-O-Link Golf Course, 4141 Center Road (Rt. 83), Avon, 9:30 a.m., (9:30am Registration | 10:30am Shotgun Start | 3:30pm Appetizers and Awards; , Avon, Ohio 44011 Eagle Sponsor: \$1,500 | Birdie Sponsor: \$750 |

**Foursome: \$400 | Hole Sponsor: \$200 | Individual Golfer: \$125 to Committee to Elect Gayle Manning and/or Nathan Manning for Ohio)**

**Monday, June 4**

**Sen. Bob Peterson (R-Sabina) golf outing fundraiser, Crown Hill Golf Club, 9500 U.S. 22, Williamsport, 12 p.m., (12:00pm Lunch | 12:30pm Shotgun Start | 5:00pm Dinner. Tournament Sponsor \$2,000 | Eagle Sponsor: \$1,000 | Birdie Sponsor: \$500 | Hole Sponsor: \$200 | Individual Golfer: \$100 | Dinner Only: \$50 to Peterson for Good Government)**

**Friday, June 8**

**House Speaker Cliff Rosenberger (R-Clarksville) golf outing fundraiser**

**Monday, June 11**

**Rep. Scott Ryan (R-Newark) golf outing fundraiser  
Ohio's 2018 Opiate Conference: Strengthening Ohio's Communities, Hyatt Regency, 350 N. High St., Columbus**

**Tuesday, June 12**

**Ohio's 2018 Opiate Conference: Strengthening Ohio's Communities, Hyatt Regency, 350 N. High St., Columbus**

**Friday, June 15**

**Deadline to file post-primary campaign finance reports**

**Monday, June 18**

**Sen. President Larry Obhof (R-Medina) golf outing fundraiser**

**Monday, June 25**

**Rep. Brian Hill (R-Zanesville) golf outing fundraiser  
Ohio Cable Telecommunications Association Golf Outing, The Lakes, 6740 Worthington Rd., Westerville**

**Monday, July 16**

**Rep. Bill Reineke (R-Tiffin) golf outing fundraiser**

**Thursday, July 19**

**Sen. Matt Dolan (R-Chagrin Falls) Batter Up fundraiser**

**Friday, July 20**

**Rep. Tom Patton (R-Strongsville) golf outing fundraiser**

**Sunday, July 22**

**YMCA Youth & Government Leaders Training School, Statehouse, Columbus**

**Monday, July 23**

**YMCA Youth & Government Leaders Training School, Statehouse, Columbus**

**Tuesday, July 24**

**YMCA Youth & Government Leaders Training School, Statehouse, Columbus**

**Wednesday, July 25**

**YMCA Youth & Government Leaders Training School, Statehouse, Columbus**

**Sen. Rob McColley (R-Napoleon) golf outing fundraiser**

**Thursday, July 26**

**Rep. Craig Riedel (R-Defiance) golf outing fundraiser**

**YMCA Youth & Government Leaders Training School, Statehouse, Columbus**

**Friday, July 27**

**YMCA Youth & Government Leaders Training School, Statehouse, Columbus**

**Tuesday, July 31**

**Deadline to file semi-annual campaign finance reports**

**Friday, August 3**

**Deadline for statewide candidates to file July campaign finance reports**

**Tuesday, August 7**

**Special election for 12th Congressional District seat**

**Thursday, August 16**

**Sen. Bob Hackett (R-London) golf outing fundraiser**

**Monday, August 20**

**Rep. Laura Lanese (R-Grove City) golf outing fundraiser**

**Thursday, August 23**

**Hamilton County GOP State Legislative golf outing fundraiser**

**Saturday, September 1**

**Lobbyists/Employers can begin filing May-August 2018 Activity & Expenditure Reports**

**Thursday, September 6**

**Deadline for statewide candidates to file August campaign finance reports**

**Monday, October 1**

**JLEC Deadline for filing May-August 2018 Activity & Expenditure Report**

**Wednesday, October 3**

**Deadline for statewide candidates to file September campaign finance reports**

**Thursday, October 25**

**Deadline to file pre-general campaign finance reports**

**Tuesday, November 6**

**General election day**

**Saturday, December 1**

**Lobbyists can begin renewing Legislative, Executive and Retirement System registrations for 2019**

**Friday, December 14**

**Deadline to file post-general campaign finance reports**

**Monday, December 31**

**All 2018 Legislative, Executive and Retirement System lobbying registrations expire in OLAC**

**Thursday, January 31**

**Deadline to 2018 annual campaign finance reports**

**Deadline to 2018 annual campaign finance reports**

**17 S. High St., Suite 630  
Columbus Ohio 43215**

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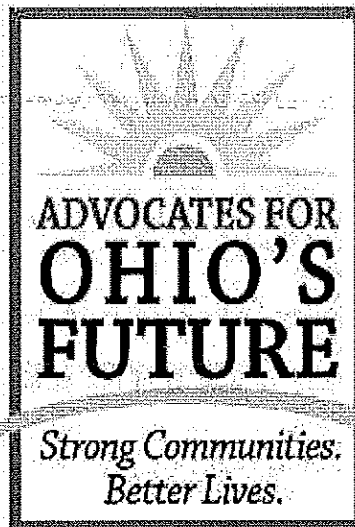
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**From:** Advocates for Ohio's Future  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 24, 2018 9:00 AM  
**To:** Rep76  
**Subject:** New Director at Advocates for Ohio's Future!

[View this email in your browser](#)

*Advocates for Ohio's Future is excited to  
Welcome new Coalition Manager Kelsey  
Bergfeld!*

*April 24, 2018*



[Click here to go to our website](#)

**For Immediate Release**



COLUMBUS, OH – Advocates for Ohio's Future (AOF) is pleased to announce that Ms. Kelsey Bergfeld will become the organization's Coalition Manager on May 1.

AOF is a statewide coalition of nearly 500 local and statewide organizations that promote health and human service solutions so all Ohioans live better lives.

"I think Kelsey brings considerable advocacy and legislative experience to Advocates for Ohio's Future," said Lisa Hamler-Fugitt, the Executive Director of the Ohio Association of Food Banks and a co-chair of AOF.

Bergfeld most recently worked as the Legislative Liaison for SEIU District 1199 WV/KY/OH, and prior to that, was a Senior Legislative Aide for State Senator Tom Sawyer.

"We're excited about the experiences that Kelsey brings to the position. She has a wealth of knowledge in the legislative process and Ohio's health and human services system. Kelsey will be a great addition to our AOF team as we work to make sure all Ohioans live better lives. We look forward to her leading AOF into the future," said Mark Davis, President of Ohio Provider Resource Association and a co-chair of AOF.

In Bergfeld's new role, she will provide leadership in AOF's coalition work and policy advocacy. She will also work to develop legislative strategy for AOF and its members.

"Kelsey's understanding of the legislative landscape, certainly around health and human services programs, is very strong, and I think she is going to be a really confident leader and a strong voice for our public policy agenda and representing our diverse coalition partners," said Hamler-Fugitt.

For more information on AOF, find us on Twitter at @Advocates4Ohio, on Facebook at Facebook.com/advocatesforohio or visit our website [www.advocatesforohio.org](http://www.advocatesforohio.org).

Advocates for Ohio's Future  
101 E. Town Street, Suite 520  
Columbus, OH 43215  
614-221-4945  
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**From:** jeannemelvin@yahoo.com

**Sent:** Tuesday, April 24, 2018 7:26 PM

**To:** Rep76

**Subject:** Road Trip to Michigan?

First Name : Jeanne

Last Name : Melvin

Address : 866 Beech Drive

City : Columbus

State : OH

Zip : 43235

Phone : 614.885.4628

Email : jeannemelvin@yahoo.com

Subject :

Road Trip to Michigan?

Message :

Hello!

The American Legislative Exchange Council (ALEC) will hold its annual Spring Task Force Summit on Friday, April 27 at the Amway Grand Plaza in Grand Rapids, Michigan.

Will you be attending the conference?

If so, who will pay your way,

And what will they expect in return?

**From:** Jeanne Melvin  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 25, 2018 3:49 PM  
**To:** Rep76  
**Subject:** Re: RE: Road Trip to Michigan?

Thank you so much for the prompt and courteous reply!  
Jeanne

On Wednesday, April 25, 2018, 8:34:46 AM EDT, Rep76@ohiohouse.gov wrote:

Dear Jeanne,

Thank you for reaching out. Representative LaTourette is not attending the summit you described.

Sincerely,

Ciara Price  
Legislative Aide  
State Representative Sarah LaTourette  
House District 76  
77 South High Street, 14th Floor | Columbus, Ohio 43215  
Office: (614)644-5088  
[Ciara.price@ohiohouse.gov](mailto:Ciara.price@ohiohouse.gov)

-----Original Message-----

From: [jeannemelvin@yahoo.com](mailto:jeannemelvin@yahoo.com) <[jeannemelvin@yahoo.com](mailto:jeannemelvin@yahoo.com)>  
Sent: Tuesday, April 24, 2018 7:26 PM  
To: Rep76 <[Rep76@ohiohouse.gov](mailto:Rep76@ohiohouse.gov)>  
Subject: Road Trip to Michigan?

First Name : Jeanne

Last Name : Melvin

Address : 866 Beech Drive

City : Columbus

State : OH

Zip : 43235

Phone : 614.885.4628

Email : [jeannemelvin@yahoo.com](mailto:jeannemelvin@yahoo.com)

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**From:** Gongwer News Service  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 25, 2018 6:13 PM  
**To:** Rep76  
**Subject:** Ohio Report, Wednesday, April 25, 2018  
**Attachments:** Apr25.htm; 180425dayplan.htm



## **OHIO REPORT WEDNESDAY, APRIL 25**

**Senate Leader Points To Variety Of Proposals After Kasich Urges Gun Safety Bill Vote**

**PUCO Approves Modified AEP Rate Settlement**

**House GOP To Vote May 15 On Next Speaker**

**Coal Group, Farm Bureau Urge Panel To Maintain Industry Tax Exemptions**

**Supreme Court Keeps In Place Rulings On Transfer Agreement, Autopsies**

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**Space Embarks On Tour To Highlight Corruption; Cordray Launches New Ad; Yuko Gets SEIU Backing...**

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**Volume #87, Report #80 -- Wednesday, April 25, 2018**

**Senate Leader Points To Variety Of Proposals After Kasich Urges Gun Safety Bill Vote**

Gov. John Kasich wants to see a set of gun safety proposals he is supporting come up for a vote, but one legislative leader said his chamber is working through several firearm-related issues.

The governor said Tuesday he hoped to see a vote on a proposal (HB 585 & SB 288) to make several changes to the state's gun laws. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, April 5, 2018)

Gov. Kasich pointed to the deadly shooting over the weekend at a Tennessee Waffle House restaurant, saying the state needs a "red flag" law to seize guns from people determined to be dangerous. That someone was able to stop the shooter while he reloaded also shows the need for limiting the capacity of magazines, the governor said.

The governor's proposals, particularly the "red flag" language creating extreme risk protection orders, have met pushback from some Republican legislators. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, April 10, 2018)

Gov. Kasich said he still expects the proposal to become law.

"We're going to get this package through," he said. "This is going to happen. It's not going to be easy to duck and run away and put your head in the sand. I will not let that happen. Maybe they can stop it, but it isn't going to be without a lot of people feeling a lot, a lot of pressure."

The governor said the gun safety proposal would likely pass if brought up for a vote.

"Bring it up and have a vote on it," he said. "We'll see where the votes are. Let's see where the majority of the caucus is. I guarantee you, you put this gun safety on the Senate floor, it passes. We need a vote."

Senate President Larry Obhof (R-Medina) said Wednesday he doesn't expect that exact proposal to come to the floor of his chamber, but that members are looking at several different items that could eventually pass.

"We have a very open process, we will look at a number of different changes related to firearms, some of which are in line with what the governor is looking at, some of which are longstanding problems that our caucus has felt we had a need to fix," he said.



The Senate leader pointed to legislation ranging from one sponsored by two Republicans to shift the burden of proof in self-defense cases, among other changes (SB 180), to proposals by Democrats to ban bump stocks (SB 219) and to create extreme risk protection orders (SB 278).

"Whether anything passes or whether a lot of it passes, we'll decide as a caucus," Sen. Obhof said.

The risk protection order measure, sponsored by Sen. Joe Schiavoni (D-Boardman), is one where Sen. Obhof said he's spoken with the sponsor and with the National Rifle Association in an effort to work out differences.

"Everything's on the table," he said.

### **PUCO Approves Modified AEP Rate Settlement**

The Public Utilities Commission of Ohio's approval Wednesday of AEP Ohio's new rate plan sets the stage for what Chairman Asim Haque believes could be the state's longest period of rate stability in the last decade.

Mr. Haque made that assessment moments after the commission voted 4-0 to modify and approve a wide-ranging rate settlement agreement filed last year by AEP and 19 interested party groups. Commissioner Daniel Conway recused himself.

In addition to establishing rates until May 2024, the Electric Security Plan includes a \$21.1 million "Smart City Rider" to fund electric vehicle charging station development and microgrid investment.

If the commission later this year approves Duke Energy's own proposed settlement rate plan, rates would be stabilized for all four of Ohio's major electric utilities until the mid-2020s, Mr. Haque said.

"This decision represents stability for AEP customers," Mr. Haque said. "ESPs are big cases. They are time intensive and they are very litigious. To have stability in the AEP footprint...is a very good thing for AEP's current customers and for job creation in AEP's service territory."

The commission's order, which may still be appealed by opponents, has been years in the making.

AEP in 2016 filed its initial proposal but critics said that plan could pave the way for a 120% increase - from \$8.40 to \$18.40 a month - for affected customers. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, May 16, 2016)

The company filed a settlement agreement last year with 19 parties including the Ohio Manufacturers' Association, the Ohio Environmental Council, Industrial Energy Users-Ohio, the Natural Resources Defense Council to address those concerns. AEP has said

the stipulation would lead to a less than 50-cent increase in average monthly bills. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, August 28, 2017)

Julie Sloat, AEP Ohio president and chief operating officer, said in a statement the plan responds to consumer requests.

"Our customers want reliability and access to advanced technologies, such as EV charging stations, microgrids and renewable energy resources," she said.

"Our plan allows us to bring these services, which also will support economic development in Ohio, to customers across the state. The ESP enables us to continue our investments in the electric grid to provide reliable power and help advance the new technologies and cleaner energy that our customers want."

Dan Sawmiller, the NRDC's Ohio energy policy director, said one surprising modification made by the commission in its order is the removal of a provision that would have enabled AEP to push back that requested 120% increase until 2020.

Other wins from supporters' point of view is a \$10 million rebate program for electrical vehicle charging stations, \$10.5 million for microgrid projects, and regulatory tweaks clearing the way for 900 megawatts of clean energy in Appalachia, Mr. Sawmiller said.

"AEP's now going to be positioned to respond to the expectations of Ohio customers that have been pushing AEP to invest in more clean energy options for years," Mr. Sawmiller said. "On top of that there are some pilot programs in the stipulation and the data and the insight we're going to gain...create the groundwork for a lot of forward-looking progress."

The agreement still has its detractors, including the Ohio Consumers' Counsel, which has argued the deal lacks specifics on customer costs and that the "Smart City Rider" should have been tackled through a separate rate case. The OCC last month petitioned the PUCO to reopen the case to enable further debate. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, January 2, 2018)

"With the PUCO's approval of AEP's electric security plan today, the trend of charging Ohioans to subsidize outdated and non-competitive power plants continues," OCC spokeswoman Molly McGuire said. "And AEP's plan will also leave consumers paying subsidies for electric vehicle charging, microgrids, large customers (interruptible rates), automakers (bill credits), and possibly renewable energy."

The OCC has continued to press lawmakers to pass a bill (HB 247) banning Electric Security Plans, which it says deprive consumers of the benefits of competitive markets.

But in its order the PUCO determined that the ESP is "more favorable in the aggregate" than a market rate offer, which is the statutory guideline by which the commission evaluates ESPs.

"The ESP proposed in the stipulation affords customers in AEP Ohio's service territory numerous benefits and advances many of the state policy objectives enumerated in (Ohio Revised Code)," the PUCO's order reads.

Commissioner Lawrence Friedeman issued a concurring opinion elaborating on the aforementioned statutory provision - O.R.C. 4928.02 (C) - which establishes state policy as promoting customer choice, encouraging innovation and facilitating the development of the competitive retail electric market through flexible regulatory treatment.

Mr. Friedeman opined that market distortions resulting from cost imbalances might undermine that code section and that those distortions may "erect market barriers which have the tendency not to promote retail competition but rather to have an anti-competitive impact or in an extreme eventuality to re-monopolize the retail market inconsistent with enunciated state policy."

### **House GOP To Vote May 15 On Next Speaker**

House Republicans will vote next month to choose the next speaker, and it is likely that the results of primary elections will influence who gets the gavel.

The majority caucus will vote at noon Tuesday, May 15, to choose its next leader, Speaker Pro Tem Rep. Kirk Schuring (R-Canton) said in a memo to members.

The special caucus will only consider votes for a new speaker to fill out the remainder of the year, not any other leadership positions, Rep. Schuring said.

The new speaker will replace Cliff Rosenberger, who resigned earlier this month amid an investigation by the FBI. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, April 12, 2018)

The speaker's race for the rest of the year could come down to the two candidates who have already been running for the job next year: Rep. Ryan Smith (R-Bidwell) and Rep. Larry Householder (R-Glenford). Another possibility is that the caucus will select a placeholder speaker to finish out the year, and Rep. Dorothy Pelanda (R-Marysville), who is term-limited, has expressed interest in that role.

Rep. Smith has said he's confident he can win the speaker's chair when a vote is called. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, April 13, 2018)

He and Rep. Householder have both been supporting candidates in primary races in an effort to secure a majority in the next General Assembly. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, January 30, 2018)

If the race comes down to Rep. Smith and Rep. Householder, a likely factor in the race will be the results of the primary election, to be held a week before the speaker vote.

The caucus could also choose a placeholder speaker, likely a term-limited member. Rep. Pelanda said she has discussed the possibility that she run to finish out the rest of

the year. Unlike the other hopefuls, she would be able to do so without the distraction of running in another election.

"I truly believe that it's in the best interest of the members of the Ohio House of Representatives that we have an interim leader to finish out the business of the 132<sup>nd</sup> General Assembly," she said in an interview.

She said she has not aligned herself with either of the other speaker candidates and said she has had "thoughtful, encouraging" conversations with fellow members about running.

"We've got three weeks until the election and the members will continue to be thoughtful about what is in the best interest going forward for this assembly," she said.

### **Coal Group, Farm Bureau Urge Panel To Maintain Industry Tax Exemptions**

Existing tax breaks supporting the coal and agriculture sectors should be preserved, stakeholder groups told the Tax Expenditure Review Committee Wednesday.

The Ohio Coal Association and the Ohio Farm Bureau Federation were among a handful of interested groups arguing in favor of continuing certain tax exemptions as the panel considers whether to preserve or scrap them. (Testimony)

Their arguments are essentially the same - that their respective industries are experiencing trying times and therefore need all the assistance they can get.

OCA President Mike Cope said the coal industry is just now beginning to recover from the "relentless war on coal" waged by the Obama Administration.

"Any tax levied on the purchase of new equipment would be devastating to our recovering industry," Mr. Cope said. "State policy that could increase the cost of coal mining could translate into higher electricity bills for Ohio's consumers."

The tax credit Mr. Cope was referring to exempts tangible personal property used directly in mining. Memos from the Department of Taxation estimate that the break costs the General Revenue Fund \$73.4 million in Fiscal Year 2018 and \$74.3 million in FY 2019. (ODT Analyses)

The Farm Bureau, meanwhile, lobbied for the continuation of credits pertaining to tangible personal property used in agriculture and for the sales and installation of agricultural land tile and portable grain bins.

The former credit lowered GRF revenues by \$331.1 million and \$339.4 million in FY 2018 and 2019, ODT reported. The tile and grain bin concession has a smaller impact at just over \$1 million in each of those years.

"The application of sales tax to input costs of a capital intensive, low profit industry such as agriculture would have significant and severe consequences," said Tony Seegers, the group's director of state policy. "Farm Bureau strongly believes the sales tax exemption must be preserved."

If lawmakers did away with those tax credits, Mr. Seegers said, the higher costs wouldn't immediately be passed onto consumers through costs. Instead, he said farmers themselves would be forced to swallow the change.

"Because prices are dictated by commodity exchanges and global demand, increased costs associated with applying sales tax to inputs will largely be eaten by farmers," he said. "Considering the profit margins we operate on, one can't help to think this would very likely drive some farmers out of business."

The Ohio Council of Retail Merchants submitted written testimony defending an exemption for tangible personal property used in storing, preparing and serving food. ODT estimates a GRF impact of about \$34 million each fiscal year for the biennium due to that exemption.

"This exemption is vital to retailers engaged in providing food products to the general public, as well as to the public served by those retailers who benefit from lower prices as a result," the council argued.

Two other exemptions were on Wednesday's agenda but received no public feedback. They included sales of tangible personal property and services to electricity providers, and TPP used to produce printed materials. In Fiscal Years 2018-2019, those exemptions were expected to cost the GRF \$699.9 million and \$19.7 million respectively, according to ODT.

Wednesday's was the third overall meeting of the committee, which is tasked with reviewing all of Ohio's tax credits over the next eight years. The committee will meet again May 9 to discuss the remaining handful of sales and use tax breaks.

Chairman Sen. Scott Oelslager (R-N. Canton) said he anticipates the May meeting to be the committee's last this spring. The sales and use exemptions examined during the committee's meetings this year will form the basis of its first report this summer, he said.

"I think we're progressing in a manner that will help us make some decisions down the road and hopefully educate the people of Ohio who are watching," Sen. Oelslager said of the committee's work thus far.

The committee is expected to begin reviewing other exemptions heading into 2019 and has eight years to fully review all \$9 billion-plus a year Ohio's tax credits. The panel has already looked at manufacturing, packaging and a handful of other exemptions. (See [Gongwer Ohio Report](#), April 11, 2018)

In general testimony, Zach Schiller, research director for Policy Matters Ohio, told members the legislature should appropriate funding for staff to undertake a more detailed analysis of the genesis of specific credits and how they have been broadened over time.

He also bemoaned that even as the committee continues its review lawmakers are still proposing and considering new tax exemptions through legislation.

"Adding new special-interest breaks is ill-conceived when this committee has barely started looking at the tax exemptions and credits we have now," Mr. Schiller said. "When the General Assembly thinks about giving away tens of millions for new business tax breaks, it should consider whether we have the money to pay for them, and whether the funds would be better spent educating young Ohioans, cutting our high infant-mortality rate, or fighting the opioid epidemic."

### **Supreme Court Keeps In Place Rulings On Transfer Agreement, Autopsies**

The Ohio Supreme Court on Wednesday denied several motions for reconsideration, including in two high-profile cases involving abortion and public records.

In one case, the court declined to reconsider its February ruling that found the Department of Health was justified in revoking the operating license of a Toledo abortion clinic for lack of a written transfer agreement with a "local" hospital.

In the ruling, the court found that Capital Care Network of Toledo violated state administrative code by inking a written transfer agreement with an Ann Arbor hospital, which the ODH deemed to not be local. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, February 6, 2018)

Ohio Right to Life President Mike Gonidakis called on the state to revoke the license of Toledo's only abortion clinic.

"Capital Care Network owes an enormous fine of \$40,000 to the state of Ohio, based upon repeated violations of state law," he said. "The original Ohio Department of Health order remains in effect and in order to reopen, this abortion facility must reapply for a license and pay its fine before aborting anymore children."

However, in a statement of its own NARAL Pro-Choice Ohio called on the ODH to immediately reinstate the license for the clinic.

"This morning, a woman in Toledo woke up with the knowledge that she needed an abortion," Executive Director Kellie Copeland said. "There is a clinic in her community that can offer her safe and professional care. That clinic has met all state requirements to provide abortion services. John Kasich and Mike DeWine are standing in between that woman and this clinic, and they are violating her rights as they do so."

Shortly after the court's original decision, the clinic lined up a last-minute transfer agreement with ProMedica.

The court also declined to reconsider its December decision in which it ruled against two newspapers that sought to compel the release of the final, un-redacted autopsy reports of eight individuals murdered in a single night in April 2016 in a Pike County case that is still unsolved.

The divided court in a 4-3 decision found the records requested by the *Cincinnati Enquirer* and the *Columbus Dispatch* fall under the confidential law enforcement investigatory records exemption. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, December 14, 2017)

The newspapers had argued that under the law final autopsy reports do not qualify for the CLEIR exemption because a coroner is not a law enforcement official.

Justice Terrence O'Donnell and Justice Sharon Kennedy dissented with the ruling on the motion to reconsider.

In a less high-profile case, the court also declined to reconsider its decision not to accept jurisdiction in a case in which a commercial fishing operation alleged that the state's administrative code defining Lake Erie yellow perch management units is unconstitutionally vague. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, July 14, 2017)

### **High Court Clarifies Appellate Review Of Arbitration Appeals**

When an appellate court reviews a lower court ruling on an arbitration decision it should conduct an independent review of the legal claims made on appeal, the Ohio Supreme Court ruled Wednesday.

In a unanimous decision authored by Justice Terrence O'Donnell, the high court determined appellate courts should accept findings of fact by trial courts that are not clearly made in error while reviewing the legal questions raised on appeal.

"When reviewing a trial court's decision to confirm, modify, vacate, or correct an arbitration award, an appellate court should accept findings of fact that are not clearly erroneous but should review questions of law de novo," Justice O'Donnell ruled.

The case stems from a dispute between the Portage County Board of Developmental Disabilities and one of its employees, the high court reported.

Patricia Byttner was hired to serve as an account clerk for the board with the understanding she would fill the role of a bus driver or bus aide in emergency situations.

After her hiring, Ms. Byttner refused a bus aide assignment, citing a pending knee surgery.

Two months later, the board amended her job description, leading to the union representing her to file a grievance. An arbitrator sided with Ms. Byttner and the union.

The board then successfully asked the Portage County Court of Common Pleas to vacate the ruling.

The union challenged the trial court decision at the Eleventh District Court of Appeals, which reinstated the arbitrator's decision.

However, the decision conflicted with other appellate court rulings, leading the case to the high court.

"In conformity with our resolution of the certified question, we recognize that the court of appeals conducted a proper de novo review of the trial court's decision in this case vacating the arbitration award, reversed its decision, reinstated the arbitration award, and therefore we affirm its judgment," Justice O'Donnell wrote for the court.

In his decision, Justice O'Donnell noted that nine of the state's appellate courts applied a de novo review while three applied an "abuse of discretion" review.

Tenth District Court of Appeals Judge Lisa Sadler sat in on the case for former Justice Bill O'Neill.

### **Cordray Campaign Pledges To Protect, Expand Veterans Benefits**

Lieutenant governor candidate Betty Sutton on Wednesday unveiled her campaign's plan to safeguard health care benefits and create new employment protections for the state's servicemembers and veterans.

Ms. Sutton, the Democratic running mate of Rich Cordray, and former gubernatorial candidate Connie Pillich unveiled the campaign's policies regarding members of the armed forces at a press conference at the Statehouse Veterans Plaza.

The former congresswoman said the state has not done enough to support the men and women who are serving or have served in the military. She said enhancing services for veterans and better connecting them with existing resources would be a "top priority" in Cordray's administration.

"Too often our respect and admiration simply hasn't been matched by tangible action to help our veterans and servicemembers," she said.

The campaign's plan calls for the state to better fund county veterans services commissions to help them assist veterans making medical claims, offer incentives for employees who hire veterans with mild traumatic brain injuries, and protect the state's expansion of Medicaid for veterans who do not qualify for VA benefits.

Ms. Pillich, the head of the campaign's veterans policy team, said the "No. 1 concern" among veterans she has talked to throughout the state is health care. She said the Cordray campaign's plan would safeguard and expand important resources for servicemembers.



"Ohio veterans need much more than a specialty license plate," she said.

The former Ohio House member and U.S. Air Force veteran said the campaign also is proposing to include a box for veterans to check on state tax returns to allow the governor's office to identify them and connect them with available resources.

The plan also suggests the state protect the jobs of Army National Guard members who have been activated and allow spouses who lose their jobs because of a servicemember's transfer to collect unemployment benefits.

Ms. Sutton said she and her running mate also would make it a priority to take combat "predatory lenders" who target veterans.

"I can think of no leader with stronger credentials to do that than Rich Cordray," she said, citing her running mate's tenure as head of the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau.

Ms. Sutton, who previously served on the U.S. House Armed Services Committee, also pointed to Mr. Cordray's work on a successful 2009 ballot issue to authorize bonuses for veterans of conflicts in Afghanistan, Iraq and the Persian Gulf as evidence of his support for servicemembers.

"We owe veterans an enormous debt of gratitude, but our gratitude must be matched by tangible action by state government to improve the lives of veterans, servicemembers and military families," Mr. Cordray said in a statement. "Betty and I will fight every day in office to honor those who have served and provide them with the support they need to thrive in Ohio."

#### **Obhof OK With Legislative Look At E-School Enrollment Rules; OSU Joins Anti-Poverty Effort; Portman Bill Targets Tech Teacher Training; Auditor Issues Bus Study...**

Senate President Larry Obhof on Wednesday said setting standards for verifying e-school enrollment falls within the legislature's purview after a whistleblower's claims thrust a shuttered charter school back into the spotlight.

The chamber leader said after a nonvoting session that the body "should take a look" at how the state measures enrollment and funds such schools rather than fully deferring to ODE.

"When the legislature's able to do things or has the responsibility for doing things, it should be the legislature, not an administrative agency, that does that," he said.

The Associated Press first reported an employee of the Electronic Classroom of Tomorrow told Department of Education officials last year that the school demanded workers manipulate attendance figures after the state moved to recoup \$60 million in

payments. Within hours, the former employee's claim became an issue among candidates for attorney general and auditor. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, April 24, 2018)

Despite backing an examination of the issue by the legislature, Sen. Obhof (R-Medina) said he does not support "micromanaging all of the fine-tuned details" of the state's enrollment-verification process.

A bill (HB 611) sponsored by Rep. Keith Faber (R-Celina) and Rep. Kristina Roegner (R-Hudson) that would tie state payments to e-schools to the use of verifiable software that tracks attendance, class size and participation was introduced last week in the House.

**Alliance for the American Dream:** Ohio State University has received a \$1.5 grant after a philanthropic organization selected the school to participate in an effort aimed at bolstering the middle class.

Schmidt Futures, a group founded by former Alphabet Executive Chairman Eric Schmidt, announced this week it added OSU to its Alliance for the American Dream. The effort seeks to increase economic opportunities for working Americans and reduce poverty.

"We are delighted to announce that Ohio State will act as an inaugural partner in the Alliance for the American Dream," Mr. Schmidt said in a statement. "When I was in Columbus last December, I saw firsthand the energy and vibrancy of the campus and region. Columbus is a perfect place to find great, fresh ideas. We are delighted to support them as they fuel an innovation engine to help distressed communities and expand the middle class."

As part of the collaborative project, OSU will receive \$1.5 million in funding to engage business, community and government leaders in "in a robust brainstorming process," according to a news release from the school.

"As a modern land-grant university, Ohio State is committed to expanding opportunity, unlocking talent and increasing economic vitality," OSU President Michael V. Drake said in a statement. "We are absolutely thrilled to join the Alliance and to partner with individuals and communities on this important and timely endeavor. It's 'The Columbus Way' in action."

**Teacher training bill:** U.S. Senator Rob Portman announced the introduction of a bill aimed at establishing a grant program to support training for career and technical education teachers

"Quality CTE teachers play a key role in expanding access to high quality programs and making sure more students and parents recognize the value of a CTE education - all of which helps lead to more and better job opportunities for students," Sen. Portman said in a statement. "I'm proud to introduce this bipartisan bill to ensure that we have better prepared teachers for this generation and generations to come."

The Creating Quality Technical Educators Act would provide funding for one-year residencies at schools for potential career and technical educators.

Sen. Portman (R-Terrace Park) is co-chairman of the Career and Technical Education Caucus with Sen. Tammy Baldwin (D-WI) and Sen. Tim Kaine (D-VA). The co-chairs introduced the legislation alongside Sen. Shelley Moore Capito (R-WV).

The Alliance for Excellent Education, the American Federation of Teachers and the Association for Career and Technical Education have expressed support for the measure.

**Feasibility study:** Belmont County school districts could save money by combining their efforts to maintain school buses, according to a study called the "first of its kind" by the state auditor's office.

The Bellaire Local School District, the Bridgeport Exempted Village School District, the Shadyside Local School District and the St. Clairsville-Richland City School District requested the state perform the study after seeing the number of bus riders decrease in recent years.

The study found the districts could operate more efficiently and save money by combining some maintenance efforts. Legislation (HB5) that took effect in 2016 gave the auditor's office the power to study the feasibility of potential efforts to share services among local governments.

"Ohio has thousands of local government entities, which has the advantage of keeping government close to the people, but the drawback is duplication of effort," State Auditor Dave Yost said in a statement. "Sharing services can keep government close to the people while reducing redundant administration, facilities and equipment. This saves money and improves efficiency for taxpayers. It also is a way to continue providing an adequate level of service even if costs rise or budgets shrink."

### **Space Embarks On Tour To Highlight Corruption; Cordray Launches New Ad; Yuko Gets SEIU Backing...**

Zack Space announced that he is embarking on a two-day, five-city tour detailing the "corrupt culture on Capitol Square."

The state auditor hopeful in a statement cited the Electronic Classroom of Tomorrow scandal and the resignation of former Speaker Cliff Rosenberger as examples of the "the pervasive culture of corruption."

"We must take state government back from the self-interested incumbents and campaign contributors who put their special interests above the needs of ordinary Ohioans," he said in a statement. "That's why I am calling for a wide-ranging criminal investigation into ECOT and for the politicians who aided and abetted this scam to

donate every cent of campaign contributions received from ECOT founder Bill Lager and his associates to charities supporting Ohio public schools."

The tour included Wednesday stops in Youngstown and Steubenville and will head to events in Dayton, Toledo and Lima on Thursday.

**New Ad:** Democrat Richard Cordray is up with his second television ad in his gubernatorial campaign.

In "Save," the former director of the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau touts his record of protecting consumers.

"As treasurer, Cordray safeguarded your tax dollars. As attorney general he recovered \$2 billion that Wall Street stole," the narrator says in the 30-second spot. "That's why President Obama chose him to be our nation's top consumer watchdog."

**SEIU Backing:** Senate Minority Leader Kenny Yuko, who faces a primary challenge from Rep. John Barnes (D-Cleveland), announced on Wednesday the Service Employees International Union District 1199 WV/KY/OH is backing his candidacy.

In announcing the endorsement Anthony Caldwell, director of public affairs, in a statement cited the Richmond Heights Democrat's three-decade career as a union organizer.

"Yuko's career as a 30-year union organizer reinforces and guides his principles to support the people of his district and determination to help those who are most vulnerable. He wants families in the 25<sup>th</sup> Senate District and across Ohio to earn fair wages, a quality public education, and access to healthcare coverage," he said.

**Union Endorsement:** Franklin County Recorder Danny O'Connor picked up another endorsement in his bid for the Democratic nomination in the 12<sup>th</sup> Congressional District.

The Communications Workers of America Local 4502 announced Wednesday that it is backing his candidacy. President David McCune in a statement said Mr. O'Connor will fight to protect working families.

"Danny has a passion for issues that affect hard working men and women such as creating economic opportunity and jobs for Ohio, improving our education system, and safeguarding our voting rights and the commitment to work for families," he said.

**Farm Bill:** The Ohio Farmers Union announced Wednesday its opposition to the U.S. House's version of the farm bill.

President Joe Logan said the proposal "turned a blind eye toward the urgent needs of farmers for a strong safety net" and "to the nutrition needs of America's least fortunate in both rural and urban communities."